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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1839.

REVIEWS

A Journey in Abyssinia—[*Reise in Abyssinien*, &c.] By Dr. Edward Rüppell. Vol. I. Frankfurt.

THE author of this narrative is already well known to the learned world by his 'Travels in Nubia,' an esteemed work, exhibiting a wide range of original observation, and presenting a more faithful picture of the Valley of the Nile, above Egypt, and its inhabitants, than any other volume with which we are acquainted, excepting, perhaps, that of Burckhardt, so far as it extends. But, in the eyes of naturalists, Dr. E. Rüppell holds deservedly a more eminent rank than could have resulted to him from the mere literary value of his works: to his enterprise, perseverance, and generosity, the Museum of his native city, Frankfurt on the Main, owes one of the best zoological collections in Europe. The increase of that collection was Dr. Rüppell's object in visiting Abyssinia, his ambition being apparently to complete, as far as possible, the natural history of the basin of the Nile. His remarks on Egypt and the Arabian shores of the Red Sea, having less of novelty, shall not detain us at present; but we shall hasten to follow the thread of his narrative from his arrival on the Abyssinian shore, at the Island of Massawa on the 17th of September, 1831. In his preface, our author says,—

Salt's journal of his visit to Abyssinia, and even the narrative of the celebrated Bruce, had spread abroad the opinion in Europe, that access to Abyssinia was opposed by almost insuperable difficulties, and was attended with much danger; and that whoever had the good luck to reach the interior of that country unharmed, must make up his mind to stay there. Time may have made great changes since the days of those travellers; at all events, in the course of my journey in Abyssinia, I never met with the difficulties on which they laid so much stress. Consequently, on my return through Egypt, I could not avoid sending a communication to M. Camille Tules, the editor of the journal published in Alexandria in the French language, by which means I hoped to fix the attention of the scientific public in Europe on the fact, that, at present, there is no peculiar difficulty in penetrating into Abyssinia, and remaining there an indefinite length of time: that the fanaticism formerly described as so dangerous to Europeans, exists no longer; and therefore, that so wide and so rich a field for the inquiries of the naturalist ought not to remain any longer neglected.

With respect to the difficulties above alluded to, we do not think that they ever really existed for one duly qualified by a knowledge of the native languages and unpretending meekness of demeanour, to hold frank intercourse with the people without exciting their suspicions or their cupidity. While Dr. Rüppell remained at Gondar, the capital of Abyssinia, he received his letters and newspapers from Europe as regularly as if he had been at Alexandria. His announcement of the comparative ease and safety with which that portion of the earth may be explored, was not lost on the lovers of novelty and adventure. A number of travellers, French and German, have since visited Abyssinia; of these MM. Combes and Tamisier, and Hr. Katte have published narratives alike worthless. The judgment which we pronounced (see *Athenæum*, Nos. 562, 563) on the volumes of the French travellers, is confirmed by our author, who points out, as we did, that they borrow Salt's map with all its errors, and adapt their narrative to it without any attempt at emendation; his strictures referring to the northern part of that map, while we denied the correctness of the southern portion of it. More recently, M. Lefevre, at present we believe in Cairo, penetrated to Shoa and the

southern provinces of Abyssinia, by the great commercial route from Zeila, in the Gulph of Aden. His steps have been since followed by M. Dufay, and by the Swiss missionaries in the service of the Church Missionary Society. Mr. Thompson d'Abbadie also is now on the road to join his brother, who is probably by this time in Enarya, once a Christian kingdom, but now ruled by the Pagan Gallas. Thus there is reason to hope that, ere long, the interesting portion of the African continent, formerly comprised in the empire of Abyssinia, will be completely opened to the influence of European civilization.

It is remarkable that the time when Dr. Rüppell discovered the facility with which Abyssinia may be explored, was one of the most disturbed in the history of that country, so faithfully and emphatically described by one of its own rulers as a country of war and confusion. Ras Weled Selasse, the chieftain visited by Mr. Salt, died in 1816, and after six years spent in dissensions, was succeeded by Sebagadis, who appears to have resembled the old Ras in the energy of his mind, as well as the popularity of his manners. He sent an envoy to England to ask for a supply of fire-arms, for which he offered certain commercial advantages. His ambition, however, had a formidable obstacle in the power of his son-in-law, Uhl, governor of the mountainous province of Simen. His intrigues provoked the hostility of the latter, and in February, 1831, the rival chiefs decided their fortunes by a battle, in which Sebagadis was taken prisoner, and immediately put to death. The sons of the fallen leader maintained for some time a struggle with the conqueror, and the province of Tigré, the north-eastern part of Abyssinia, had not yet recovered from the calamities of civil war under which it had so recently smarted, when our author arrived on its frontier.

As a counterpart to the preceding historical sketch, we shall state, with equal brevity, the peculiar political circumstances of the coast. Massawa was taken possession of by the Turks in 1577, and a garrison of 400 Bosnian soldiers was stationed there, for whose support a monthly stipend of 1,400 ounces of silver was charged on the revenues of the place. The Sublime Porte soon lost sight of so insignificant a dependency, and Massawa thus fell under the immediate control of the Pacha of Jidda. The Bosnian soldiers in the meantime intermarried with the Habáb, the tribe occupying the shores of the mainland, and adopted their manners and language. Yet, forming a kind of military corporation, like the Janissaries in general, they transmitted to their representatives a title to the pay, and the obligation to do military service. Their chief was allowed, by the Turkish authorities, to rule the coast of the mainland and the town of Arkeeko, with the title of Naib. In the course of the seventeenth century, as the Turkish power in the Red Sea declined, the governor of Massawa was obliged to pay tribute to Abyssinia. Towards the close of the last century, however, the Sheriff of Mekka made himself master of that port, and reduced the monthly pay to the Naib's people to 1005 ounces of silver. In 1814, when Mohammed Ali's power was established on the opposite shores of Arabia, Massawa, of course, followed the fortune of Jidda, and received his officers. The new Kaimakan, or lieutenant-governor, ventured to doubt the validity of the title under which the Habáb claimed to share in the revenues of the port, and, in 1826, pretending that his coffers were empty, he suspended payment of their pensions. This occasioned a revolt, which forced him to fly; but in a few months peace was established on the old footing, the Turks keeping possession of the island, and paying out of its revenues a fixed

monthly sum (1005 ounces of silver) to the rude soldiery of the mainland, among whom, in process of descent, it is now very unequally distributed, some receiving a handsome income, and many but a miserable fraction from that fund.

The revenues of the port of Massawa amount to about 40,000 dollars annually, of which 23,000 are expended in the place, the rest is remitted to Jidda. The moral character of the inhabitants is painted by all in revolting colours; the fraudulent habits of petty traffic, the bigotry nurtured by their vicinity to a rude Christian nation, and, above all, the slave trade in which they are engaged, have corrupted all their feelings, and extinguished in their breasts every sense of shame. They are constantly putting the stranger on his guard against one another's deceitful arts, meditating at the same moment to catch him in the very snares which they pretend to be pointing out. One of the most eminent of the native merchants, paying a visit to our author, stole from the bench on which he sat ten pounds of lead; the theft was discovered for a reward by another equally respectable merchant, who, asking for lead to purchase, was shown the stolen piece, and carried it off. After this, the thief renewed his visits to our author, not lowered, apparently, either in his own eyes or in the estimation of his countrymen by the discovery of his dishonesty. Again, our author was not a little mortified to hear a man whose hand had been badly fractured by a ball, and whose wounds he had dressed unremittingly for eight weeks, till their cure was effected, exclaim, in a strain of Turkish piety, "God rules all things, and his dispensations are wonderful; he has brought this dog of a Christian here to cure me." Notwithstanding this fanaticism, the inhabitants of Massawa tolerate, for the sake of gain, the Indians Banians, here an opulent class, and the grotesque rites with which they annually celebrate the incarnations of Vishnú.

The first excursion of Dr. Rüppell from Massawa was to the Valley of Modat, a few leagues north-westward, where the animal creation, the chief object of his curiosity, seemed assembled to greet him. The birds there were in such number and variety, that his *jäger*, or sportsman, collected no less than 130 species of them in a month. Antelopes were also numerous, and their followers, the beasts of prey, hyenas, leopards, and lions. A pair of the latter had taken up their abode in the valley while our author sojourned there, but though their lair was well known, the inhabitants, while suffering severely from their depredations, had not sufficient spirit of combination to join in expelling them. In the winter season, elephants also descend to the Valley of Modat, which is but a few miles from the sea. A marshy country, haunted by the rhinoceros and buffalo, was described as being six days further to the north-west. Consequently, the tract which in ancient times gave to Ptolemais, on the adjoining coast, the epithet Thérón, or of wild beasts, still retains its character unchanged. The lists of tribes, therefore, said to possess it, cannot shake our persuasion that it is very scantily inhabited.

The ruins of the ancient Adulis, respecting the situation of which Mr. Salt had heard some rumours, next engaged our author's attention. He found that the site of the ancient town is not at Zulla, but a league further inland, and still bears the name of Adule. The ruins, in themselves trivial, are yet the interesting testimonies of by-gone art and civilization. They are thus described by our author:—

Here lie, on the north side of the broad bed of a dry river, coming from the south-west, several heaps, consisting of the ruins of dwellings, which were all

built of small, unshaped fragments of lava, and extended about 500 paces from west to east. They are all completely reduced to rubbish. Nearly in the middle of the ruined heaps stand the remains of a larger building, which was probably a Christian church. Here are found, on a space of sixty feet square, several pieces of fluted quadrangular pillars. The capitals are eighteen inches square and nine inches high. All consists of lava. It was impossible to make out the plan of the building, or to ascertain the number of the pilasters, but I reckoned five capitals. There was no trace of sculpture or inscription, though this was probably the place where the famous Adulitic inscription was found (which inscription was copied by the Monk Cosmas in the year 525).

Before we accompany our author to the highlands of Abyssinia, we shall briefly advert to some of his critical observations on its maritime districts and their roaming inhabitants. He informs us that the original name of Arkiko, the village on the mainland opposite the island of Massawa, is Dogene, which he conjectures, not without reason, to mean the Elephant, (called Dacanoo in Adel, further south); and he attributes to the Turks the introduction of the name Arkiko, which he supposes to occur, for the first time, in Godinho's account of Oviedo's mission in 1578. But the fact is, that the same name is found in the journal of Alvarez, and in the letters of Corsali, (who writes Ercoco), sixty years before the invasion of the Turks. The name Docono we believe to have been applied not merely to Arkiko, but to the whole northern frontier of Abyssinia; it was the name probably of the region, rather than of the site of the town. The Habáb, in the valley of Modat, say that they came originally from the country of Taka,—that is, the flat country towards the Athara. The subjugation of the people of Taka is recorded in the Greek inscription at Axum. North-westwards of the Habáb dwell two Christian tribes, the Bellein and the Sanheit. The former of these are unquestionably a remnant of the Balyún, mentioned by the Arab writers, and who, adhering to the Christian faith, were forced southwards by the apostatizing tribes of their race. They are the Bellones of the Portuguese missionaries; the Belloes of Bruce, who, omitting the mark of the nasal sound which properly belongs to this word (Bellões), discloses the sources of his information in this, as in many other instances, only by his blunders. Finally, the Bellein are probably descended from the Abyllini, or Babylonii of ancient authors.

A recent traveller in Abyssinia, and one well acquainted with the languages of that country, has assured us that he never met a native who had heard of Dankaly or Dankala. Yet the Arab geographers all give this name to the maritime district of Abyssinia. Our author, however, informs us, that Danakil, the name of the people, is derived from Danak, a boat, and, therefore, means boatmen or seafaring people. This is certainly a plausible etymology of the word; but still we feel inclined to ask whether the Danakil have really boats or the seafaring habits here ascribed to them? The king of Dankaly, according to Almeida, is but a poor goatherd. The obscurity which has latterly involved a name once conspicuous, is not yet fully cleared up. The Shoho, who rove over the eastern slopes of the Abyssinian highland, presenting themselves to the traveller, as occasion serves, in the double capacity of guides and of robbers, and who are distinguished by the coarseness of their features from all the neighbouring tribes, are conjectured by our author to be a remnant of Galla descent; which is not improbable: in 1641, a Galla horde penetrated as far as Arkiko. We shall conclude these critical annotations, with observing, that the island of Dahalak, or rather Dhalak, opposite to Annesley Bay, and on which are found remains attesting

its former flourishing condition, is mentioned by Edrisi and other Arab writers under its present name; but Dhalak happening to be written by Europeans Zaleg, (for the Arabic characters too often leave room for such equivocal orthography,) has been most unaccountably mistaken by Heeren, Humboldt, and other commentators, for the town of Zeila, outside of the Straits.

A Kafilah from the interior having arrived at Massawa, our author availed himself of that opportunity to secure the services of a respectable native of Gondar, named Getana Mariam. For that purpose, he lent the Abyssinian merchant 600 dollars, wherewith to speculate in returning, and made no secret of the transaction, so that Getana Mariam became virtually answerable for his safety; for our author knew that if he were made away with in the course of his journey, every chief in Abyssinia who could catch hold of Getana Mariam, would, under pretence of justice, mulct him in the amount of at least 600 dollars. The journey from Massawa, over Taranta, has been already amply described by Bruce and Salt, and may, therefore, be here omitted. It must, however, be remarked, that our author spies with the eye of a hungry vulture the inaccuracies of Mr. Salt's narrative, and pounces upon them with a vivacity of spirit not reconcilable with calm justice. He keeps up a critical fusillade, which is intended as a retaliation for sundry heavy shots directed by the latter traveller against Bruce. Since our author appears to reserve his vindication of Bruce's character for his second volume, we shall carefully abstain from the present from any observation on that topic; hinting only, that Dr. Rüppell having instituted, must not be surprised if he be sometimes called upon to take a passive part in, the circle of retaliation. His lively description of the costume and carriage of his Abyssinian fellow travellers must be, for a like reason, omitted; but he makes one observation, which, from its originality, and we think its justness also, deserves to be pointed out to special notice.

Classical traditions, when they reach far into antiquity, must be expected to accord with barbarian habits. The fashions of rude life are so intimately connected with natural wants, that they possess a permanence and uniformity not to be found in society raised above its primitive state, or when the mode of personal adornment rests on the narrow foundation of taste. The enormous *chevelure*, in fashion on the banks of the Nile 3000 years ago, still distinguishes the aboriginal tribes from Nubia to the Red Sea. In order to keep the frizzled and buttered mass of hair from the ground, on lying down to rest, a kind of wooden pillow or small trestle was employed, many specimens of which have been found in the Catacombs, and which is still in use in Nubia. A similar contrivance was resorted to by a South African tribe a century and a half ago, when it was the fashion in that part of the world (the country now occupied by the Amapondas) to adorn the head with a goodly pyramid of beef fat. The Abyssinians, as well as the Nubians, protect their heads from the fierce rays of a tropical sun, by thickly anointing them with grease or butter; but not wearing, like the latter people, an accumulation of frizzled hair extending over the shoulders, and absorbing the unguent, they are obliged, in order to prevent the grease from dripping over their faces, to tie a band (usually of white cotton) round their heads. Now, this cotton band, says Dr. Rüppell, explains the fillet round the head of Jupiter Ammon. This venerable deity, it may be therefore concluded, greased his locks copiously, and came to Olympus from the south. His horns were the emblems of power, according to the conceptions and language of Abyssinia and contiguous nations. In Monomotapa, as well as in Aby-

sinia, the horn was the ensign of royalty, and customs derived from that tenet may be traced even to the neighbourhood of the Cape Colony. It is curious to consider that the ceremonies preserved to the present day in the inauguration of royalty,—namely, those of anointing and crowning, or, to describe them in the language of their primitive institution, of greasing the hair and putting on the horns, (for corona, in its radical sense, means simply horns,) are derived from those Ethiopians, "the best of men," whose feasts made Jupiter forgetful of the destinies of Troy;—they are derived from those remote and barbarous ages, when great men covered their heads with fat, (none but great men could afford such a luxury,) and copied from the beasts of the field a show of superiority.

Our author reached the village of Halai, on the top of Taranta, (the name Halai means the top,) by the same path which Bruce had trodden; and as the latter traveller found great difficulty in getting his three feet quadrat conveyed to the summit of the mountain, so the former was not a little embarrassed by a large bell, which he was anxious to carry as a present to Ubi, and which the Shoho guides repeatedly urged him to break in two, that it might be packed more conveniently. He ascertained the height of Taranta to be 8,600 feet. A small stream creeps from the mountain plain westwards to the valley of the Mareb, or, as our author expresses it, to the district of Maleb. All the other streams, the Mai Munai included, which he met with during his journey southwards to Ategerat, flow, without exception, towards the sea coast. Our maps, therefore, are all erroneous in making the ridge of mountains the division of the waters. The towns within the same limits constitute a kind of federative republic, and annually elect a chief magistrate. Ategerat, the chief town of the province Agamé, was the place of residence of the ambitious Sebagadis. The description of his palace will enable our readers to form some idea of the civilization of Abyssinia:—

The dwellings of Ategerat (says Dr. Rüppell,) lie in scattered groups round what is called the palace. This, in European eyes, is nothing but a great barn, in the middle of an oval area enclosed by a wall. It was built by Sebagadis not long ago, and is, perhaps, the largest edifice in all Abyssinia. It consists of a single room, a hundred feet long, about thirty in width, and as many in height, and having no light but what is admitted through the door. In the back part of the room, the walls of which were never even whitewashed, the floor was strewn with rushes. The only furniture of the building was a wooden bench in one corner, on which Sebagadis used to recline when he gave audience. On both sides of the entrance outside, under shelter of a thatched projection, were rows of goats' horns fixed in the wall, on which the soldiers hung their muskets. A small door at the back of the building opened into a little chamber to which Sebagadis used to retire for repose, and which was connected by a covered passage with a house inhabited by some of his wives. The holes from which were taken the stones for the building were never filled up, though within the enclosure of the palace. Within the same enclosure lay a great Ethiopian boar (*Phasocoeheres*), the eyes of which had been put out; and the story went, that it was a favourite amusement of the court of Sebagadis, as often as the chief gave audience to Mohammedans, to drive into the middle of them this headlong animal, which they considered unclean.

It appears that the Christian women of Agamé are purposely filthy in their persons, lest they should be mistaken for Mohammedans, whose religion prescribes frequent ablutions. Nor are the hearts of those fair bigots purer than their persons; the corn which they sold to our author's party, was adulterated with a seed which brought on serious spasmodic illness. In general, says Dr. Rüppell, every office in Abyssinia, the discharge of which requires integrity, must be filled

by a N of the panion stance journey through some tenanc woman Maria quitted sawa. and n his ma tions, up on woman was jo had h been r Gonda gious have a feeling handie native aliens, Christi the res in the A sh lava, v from th his rove a ruin this is signific near th the Ge Warie, may be mentio enable to be m any inc deli, C guese situate accord in an u A do Tembel rushes the wes rear th of perpe river w and as safely i name o down, feet ab of the Humbo Dr. Ri nions, shallow potamu can ha assertio the stre der at t are surj torpedo in the v The Greek i authori the Cat snow is and has He qu

by a Mohammedan. Of the levity and bad faith of the Abyssinian Christians, his friend and companion, Getana Mariam, offered a singular instance. This merchant, considering that in his journeys to and fro from Gondar to the sea, through the country of Sebagadis, he might sometimes stand in need of that chief's countenance, bethought him of marrying a young woman of Sebagadis's family. This was Getana Mariam's nineteenth lawful wife. He soon quitted his youthful bride, to proceed to Massawa. Sebagadis, in the meantime, lost his life, and now the merchant, only five months after his marriage, disavowed his matrimonial obligations, and at last succeeded in hushing the matter up on payment of three dollars to the young woman's relations. At Ategerat, the caravan was joined by a pretty damsel of seventeen, who had had seven husbands, from whom she had been released by divorce, and was now going to Gondar to marry an eighth. The corrupt religious institutions of the Abyssinian Christians have subverted their industry as well as moral feelings. Nearly all the active commerce and handicraft occupations are in the hands of the native Mohammedans and Jews, or of a few aliens, chiefly Greeks and Copts. Among the Christian population, idleness and depression are the results of 180 solemn festivals, and 200 fasts, in the course of the year.

A short distance west of Ategerat is the ridge of lava, which divides the waters flowing eastward from those running into the Tacazzi. Continuing his route south-westwards, our author came to a ruined town, named by him Mai Quarar; but this is obviously the name of the river (*Mai* signifies water), the dry bed of which he crossed near the town. This river, therefore, and not the Gedgeda, as Dr. Rüppell supposes, nor the Warie, according to the conjecture of Mr. Salt, may be at once identified with the river of Corror, mentioned by Alvarez, whose route we are thus enabled to fix in one point with precision. It is to be regretted, that our author did not make any inquiry respecting the chief places, (Manadeli, Corcora, &c.) mentioned by the old Portuguese traveller; nor for the ruins of Quened, situate a little to the south of his route, and where, according to Pearce, are obelisks and inscriptions in an unknown character.

A descent of 2,400 feet from the plains of Temben, led to the banks of the Tacazzi, which rushes like a torrent through a deep valley, on the western side of which the mountains of Simen rear their rugged summits, nearly to the limits of perpetual snow. The absolute height of the river where our author crossed it was 2,900 feet, and as its course is extremely rapid, we may safely infer that the plains in which, under the name of Atbara, it joins the Nile 450 miles lower down, cannot be raised much more than 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, which is but half of the elevation assigned to them by Rennell, Humboldt, and other speculative geographers. Dr. Rüppell, as well as his Abyssinian companions, bathed in the Tacazzi, in a part too shallow and rocky to be the haunt of the hippopotamus, and too rapid for the crocodile; and can hardly be justified in deriding Mr. Salt's assertion, made in reference to another part of the stream, that the Abyssinians in general shudder at the thought of bathing in that river. We are surprised that he makes no mention of the torpedo, said by the Jesuit missionaries to dwell in the waters of the Tacazzi.

The snows of Simen are alluded to in the Greek inscription of Axum; yet in spite of that authority, and the more explicit statements of the Catholic missionaries, Bruce maintained that snow is a very rare phenomenon in Abyssinia, and has no name in the language of the people. He quotes, in confirmation of this, a passage

from the History of the Emperor Susneus or Socinius, which relates, that in the low province of Foggora, there once fell a remarkable shower of rain, like feathers and beautifully white. This expression however only shows, that the native historian was so uncritical as to describe a meteorological phenomenon of usual occurrence in one part of the country, in the language of another part where it was unusual. It is remarkable, that at the very period to which Bruce refers (1615), while the Emperor Socinius was carrying on war in Simen, accompanied by a missionary (Diego de Mattos), the snow fell so heavily one night (according to the Jesuit's statement), as to bury completely the tents of the army.

Dr. Rüppell, on his arrival at Augetkat, the chief village of Simen, was civilly received by the governor, but he appears to have sensibly felt the want of the genteel society and courtliness of manner, which recommend the Abyssinians of Bruce's narrative. The object of his visit was briefly explained, viz.

He wished to remain in Simen during the rainy season, in order to collect as many specimens as possible of the wild animals of that region; inasmuch as in his native land, there was a palace, in which all the creatures of the earth are stuffed and kept in pairs, so as to form a perfect representation of Noah's Ark.

This gave general satisfaction. Some of the governor's questions, on the other hand, were mortifying enough to European pride. He asked for example, whether the seven kings of the Franks, were any of them, as great as the Naib of Massawa? Why they did not come to Gondar? And why, if they were so powerful as was pretended, they did not rescue Jerusalem from the hands of the unbelievers?

Our author's contributions to the geography of Simen are extremely important; but on this as on some other topics his work is still palpably incomplete: our comments, therefore, on the rectifications which he has made in the map of Abyssinia, on the natural peculiarities as well as the political condition and prospects of that country, in justice to him shall be reserved till his finished narrative puts us in full possession of his views, and enables us to exhibit a comprehensive sketch of all his discoveries.

The Epicurean, a Tale, with Vignette Illustrations by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.; and *Alciphron, a Poem*. By Thomas Moore, Esq. Macrone.

THE advertisements which have heralded this publication have unfairly led the public to anticipate "a new poem" by Mr. Moore, whereas the work ought to have been announced, as indeed it is described by Mr. Moore himself, as a new edition of 'The Epicurean.' The only pretext for the advertisement is briefly this:—Mr. Moore's intention on commencing the story was to write it in verse; he was, however, induced to abandon this plan; but so much of the poem as was written is here printed, that the reader (says Mr. Moore) may determine for himself, whether "I was wrong or right in the change." Surely this is a very different thing from "a new poem." Again, we had been led to anticipate not only a new but a splendid edition of 'The Epicurean,' whereas it is a poor and pitiful edition—the illustrations by Turner seeming quite out of their element. These four illustrations, however, are fine dream-like visions, after the manner, somewhat mannered, of the artist. The View of the Nile and Memphis by Moonlight is quite magical; it combines the gorgeous effect of the massive and colossal architecture of Egypt with the softer features of river scenery; the Athenian garden again seems to realize our dreams of the city of Pericles; but the representation of Alciphron, ascending by the ring, mixes so much of the allegorical with

the real as to verge on the ridiculous; and the destruction of the young priestess by the poisoned chaplet has a little of the same defect: the serpents and dogs' heads are conceits which had better have been avoided.

A work so long known and so extensively circulated as 'The Epicurean' may seem placed beyond the pale of criticism; the circumstances, however, to which we have alluded, the publication of the original work, induce us to examine, not so much the tale itself, as the conception which it embodies, and for this purpose we shall generally refer to the poem in preference to the tale, because, as a novelty, it will have most interest for the reader; and Alciphron's four letters in verse contain nearly the same details of events, scenery, and feelings as the first eight chapters of 'The Epicurean.'

There are hours in every man's life when pleasure has become wearisome from repetition, and luxuries pall on the sense,—when science fails to satisfy, because its highest lesson is to tell how much remains hidden, and philosophy appears but as an unreal mockery. Such a stage in the mental progress, is thus portrayed by the Poet:—

Though through my life's short sunny dream,
I've floated without pain or care,
Like a light leaf, down pleasure's stream,
Caught in each sparkling eddy there;
Though never mirth awaked a strain
That my heart echoed not again;
Yet have I felt, when e'en most gay,
Sad thoughts—I knew not whence or why—
Suddenly o'er my spirit fly.
Like clouds, that, ere we've time to say
"How bright the sky is!" shade the sky.
Sometimes so vague, so undefined
Were these strange darkenings of my mind—
While nought but joy around me beam'd—
So causelessly they've come and flown,
That not of life or earth they seem'd,
But shadows from some world unknown.

After a long indulgence of sweet and bitter fancies and speculations on immortality, Alciphron lay down to sleep. In the language of Job,—“A thing was secretly brought to him, and his ear received a little thereof; in thoughts from the visions of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men: fear came upon him and trembling, a spirit passed before his face, it stood still, but he could not discern the form thereof.” He tells us:—

I seem'd
To be transported far away
To a bleak desert plain, where gleam'd
One single, melancholy ray.
Throughout that darkness dimly shed
From a small taper in the hand
Of one, who, pale as are the dead,
Before me took his spectral stand,
And said, while, awfully a smile
Came o'er the wanness of his cheek—
“Go, and beside the sacred Nile,
You'll find th' Eternal Life you seek.”

Soon as he spoke these words, the hue
Of death upon his features grew—
Like the pale morning, when o'er night
She gains the victory—full of light;
While the small torch he held became
A glory in his hand, whose flame
Brighten'd the desert suddenly,
E'en to the far horizon's line—
Along whose level I could see
Gardens and groves, that seem'd to shine,
As if then freshly o'er them played
A vernal rainbow's rich cascade.
While music was heard every where,
Breathing, as 'twere itself the air,
And spirits, on whose wings the hue
Of heav'n still linger'd, round me flew,
Till from all sides such splendours broke,
That with the excess of light, I woke!

Obedient to this warning, Alciphron sailed for Alexandria, which, at the period of the story, the third century of the Christian era, was the centre of science and civilization. Its intellectual condition is very faithfully portrayed by the Epicurean:—

“The population of Alexandria, at this period, consisted of the most motley miscellany of nations, religions, and sects, that had ever been brought together in one city. Beside the school of the Grecian Platonist was seen the oratory of the cabalistic Jew; while the church of the Christian stood, undisturbed,

over the crypts of the Egyptian Hierophant. Here, the adorer of Fire, from the East, laughed at the less elegant superstition of the worshipper of cats, from the West. Here Christianity, too, had learned to emulate the pious vagaries of Paganism; and while, on the one side, her Ophite professor was seen bending his knee gravely before a serpent, on the other was heard a Nicosian contending, with no less gravity, that there was no chance whatever of salvation out of the pale of the Greek alphabet. Still worse, the uncharitableness of Christian schism was already, with equal vigour, distinguishing itself; and I heard everywhere, on my arrival, of the fierce rancour and hate, with which the Greek and Latin churchmen were then persecuting each other, because, forsooth, the one fasted on the seventh day of the week, and the others fasted upon the fourth and sixth!"

Since the first appearance of this tale, the publication of Matter's 'School of Alexandria, and History of Gnosticism,' the new edition of the works of St. Clement Alexandrinus, and the fragments of Origen, and the many researches of English and foreign scholars in Ecclesiastical antiquity and Oriental philosophy, have thrown much light on the state of the Alexandrian church, and revealed to us the sources of the many strange heresies which Christianity and Mohammedanism derived from Egypt. A brief view of the school of Christian philosophy, which had been established at Alexandria before the time when it is supposed to have been visited by Alciphron will complete the description given by the Epicurean.

Paganism was worn out; the Ptolemies attempted to unite the polytheism of Greece to that of Egypt, and the endeavour was fatal to both; the philosophers of Alexandria openly derided the Egyptian mythology, while they devoted themselves with indescribable ardour to following out the speculations of Plato. Nor was this substitution of philosophy for religion confined to followers of Osiris or Jupiter; the Hebrews who had settled in Egypt raised Plato to an equality with Moses, and the influence of a foreign philosophy may be very clearly traced in the translation of the Septuagint, and in the apocryphal Book of Wisdom, ascribed to Solomon. But the Platonism of Alexandria was not pure; it was mingled with the dark imaginings and gloomy superstitions of Oriental theology; the dread and mysterious creeds of Mithras and Buddha supplied "shadows, clouds, and darkness," to rest upon "the wide unbounded prospect," which the speculations of the Athenian philosopher had opened. At length Potamon appeared, and declared that not only the systems of mythology, but also those of philosophy were exhausted, that each of them contained germs of truth developed into falsehood, and that a new faith was to be collected from a careful analysis and comparison of them all. Two very different systems were founded on this principle, which are usually denominated Syncretism and Eclecticism. Syncretism, or a jumble of all creeds into one anomalous whole, prevailed at Rome, where the Emperor Alexander Severus erected statues to Moses, Christ, and Apollonius Tyaneus; it ended with Constantine the Great, who, at his death, by singular fortune, received apotheosis from the Pagans and canonization from the Christians.

Eclecticism, or the selection of the truths from all creeds, became popular in Alexandria; it opened a boundless field for speculation, and it afforded endless employment to ingenuity in allegorical explanations of the symbols of the Egyptian mythology and the fables of the Grecian. Christianity appears to have been first embraced in Egypt by the Jewish sect of the Therapeutæ, or Essenians, settled near the Mareotic lake; it had soon a more illustrious convert in Pantænus, a philosopher deeply imbued with the principles of Potamon, to which

he superadded a belief in the universality of truth, which led him to search for analogies to the Christian doctrine in the varied mysteries of Paganism. To him we owe the perilous comparison between the incarnation of the Egyptian Hermes and the reverence paid to the symbolic cross from the earliest days of the Pharaohs and the Christian creed; and to his speculations must in a great degree be ascribed the revival of the heresy of Cerinthus, who, even in the days of the Apostles, had asserted that Christ was only a spectral apparition, a mere phantasm, and not a real man.

The principles of Pantænus are less dangerously developed by St. Clement, of Alexandria, who, however, contends for the generality of revelation, and ascribes to direct inspiration the many sublime precepts which are dispersed through the various philosophic schools. On the other hand, they were completely perverted by Ammonius Saccas, who vacillated all his life between Christianity and Paganism, bequeathing at his death the controversy, whether he should be deemed a demi-god or a saint, a controversy which continued until nobody cared about his existence.

Ammonius had two remarkable pupils, the Pagan Plotinus and the Christian Origen; both commanded an extraordinary share of attention in their day, and both have all but fallen into oblivion. Their writings, however, are the best sources for obtaining a knowledge of the intellectual condition of the early part of the third century. In Origen, especially, we find the germs of Arianism, and the heresies with which it was connected; the Epicurean only notices one of his peculiar tenets, his denial of eternal torments, but to these were added in strange confusion, the principles maintained by Toland in his 'Christianity as old as the Creation,' and Hutchinson in his 'Trinity of the Gentiles.' Like St. Clement, he is perpetually identifying the mysteries of Christianity with those of Paganism, searching out false analogies, and sporting with perilous similitudes. Judaism, as taught by the Essenes, seems to have been a favoured portion of his creed, for he practised the mutilation ascribed to them in the Gospel of St. Matthew. Most writers on the subject believe, that he superadded the Samaritan cross to the Egyptian, and led St. Jerome into his celebrated assertion, that the mark described in the ninth chapter of Ezekiel, was the sign of the cross.

Gnosticism, rather than Christianity, was the prevailing creed at Alexandria at the date assigned to the visit of the Epicurean; Jews and Pagans were its disciples as well as Christians, the peculiar opinions of each being absorbed in one dark mass of mysticism. We regret that Alciphron has not given us a picture of some of the Alexandrian schools, especially as ample materials might be found in the fragments of Origen and Plotinus, and in the Stromata of St. Clement. He was perhaps, too much absorbed in the contemplation of the wealth and beauty of "the queen of the Mediterranean;" and the city as he describes it, was assuredly worthy of admiration:—

Here, up the steps of temples from the wavy
Ascending, in procession slow and grave,
Priests in white garments go, with sacred wand
And silver cymbals gleaming in their hands;
While there, rich barks—fresh from those sunny tracts
Far off, beyond the sounding cataracts—
Glide, with their precious lading to the sea,
Plumes of bright birds, rhinoceros ivory,
Gems from the isle of Mercoe, and those grains
Of gold, wash'd down by Abyssinian rains.
Here, where the waters wind into a bay
Shadowy and cool, some pilgrims, on their way
To Sais or Babastus, among beds
Of lotus flowers, that close above their heads,
Push their light barks, and there, as in a bower,
Sing, talk, or sleep away the sultry hour—
Or dipping in the Nile, when faint with heat,
Tint leaf, from which its waters drink most sweet.

Quitting Alexandria, the Epicurean proceeds

to Memphis, whose lakes and pyramids fascinate his attention:—

Memphis,—still grand, though not the same
Unrival'd Memphis, that could seize
From ancient Thebes the crown of Fame,
And wear it bright through centuries—
Now, in the moonshine, that came down
Like a last smile upon that crown,
Memphis, still grand, among her lakes,
Her pyramids and shrines of fire,
Rost, like a vision that half breaks
On one who, dreaming still, awakes
To music from some midnight choir:
While to the west, where gradual sinks
In the red sands, from Libya roll'd,
Some mighty column, or fair sphynx,
That stood in kingly courts, of old,
It seem'd as, mid the poms that shone
Thus gaily round him, Time look'd on,
Waiting till all, now bright and blest,
Should fall beneath him like the rest.

His wanderings among the Pyramids, and through the City of the Dead, are portrayed with great skill, and are felt as a relief after the pictures of his luxurious enjoyments in Athens and Alexandria. On one occasion he reaches a small chapel, whose sculptures were well calculated to revive his anxious longing for the secrets of immortality, especially one symbol, which St. Augustine was anxious to see adopted by Christians:—

While on the roof was pictur'd bright
The Theban beetle, as he shines,
When the Nile's mighty flow declines,
And forth the creature springs to light,
With life regenerate in his wings:—
Emblem of vain imaginings!
Of a new world, when this is gone,
In which the spirit still lives on!

In this chapel he sees the maiden who thenceforth becomes the lode-star of his soul, and while watching for her is half involuntarily initiated into the dread mysteries of the Egyptian mythology.

The machinery of this part of the story is, from beginning to end, taken from the Abbé Terrasson's *Life of Sethos*, and is more clumsily managed,—indeed, rendered needlessly improbable. It is but fair, however, to give the excuse made by the High Priest:—

And such th' advance in fraud since Orpheus' time,—
That earliest masters of our craft sublime,—
So many minor mysteries, imps of fraud,
From the great Orphic Egg have wing'd abroad,
That, still to uphold our Temple's ancient host,
And seem most holy, we must cheat the most;
Work the best miracles, wrap nonsense round;
In pomp and darkness, till it seems profound;
Play on the hopes, the terrors of mankind,
With changeful skill; and make the human mind
Like our own Sanctuary, where no ray,
But by the Priest's permission, wins its way,—
Where, through the gloom as wave our wizard rods,
Masters, at will, are conjured into Gods;
While Reason, like a grave-faced mummy, stands,
With her arms swathed in hieroglyphic bands.

Alciphron escapes from the wiles of the High Priest, by the aid of the maiden whose charms led him into danger. She converts him to Christianity and becomes his spouse, but is discovered by her sacerdotal pursuers and martyred.

The idea developed—a longing for immortality arising from satiety of pleasure, disappointed in the systems of philosophy, but finally gratified by true religion—is a noble conception; in working it out, we think, that the physical trials of the initiation are worse than unnecessary; Alciphron's struggles should have been purely mental, and we would much rather have followed him through the schools of Alexandria, than the recesses of the pyramid.

Oriental Outlines; or, a Rambler's Recollections of a Tour in Turkey, Greece, and Tuscany, in 1838. By W. Knight. Low.

This little unpretending volume contains a pleasant narrative of a summer's sail among the Greek islands, and a visit to Constantinople and Smyrna. Tuscany should not have figured in the title-page, for the notice is confined to Pisa and Leghorn, places so well known, that the account here given is bald, brief, and insufficient for any purpose. It is a work, however, to be read rather than criticized; and we can best

do justice to Mr. Knight, and most gratify our readers, by transferring to our pages a few of his sketches from life. Here is an account of a Greek christening:—

"On the arrival of the party, the ceremony was immediately commenced. Before reaching the chapel, the 'charm' which had hitherto been worn by the child, in accordance with the national custom, was cut off from its neck. The godmother then took the infant in her arms, remaining at the door of the chapel, while the priest, standing but a few paces within the entrance, read a few short prayers. He next advanced, and breathed upon the child, making the sign of the cross three several times upon her body, with the thumb and two fingers of his right hand, which were closely pressed together; then taking her in his arms, he carried her himself towards the altar, and here, whether terrified or not at his bushy grey beard, the youngster began to cry and bawl most lustily. Prayers were then continued, and the child entirely stripped of its apparel. A tub was now filled with warm water, in which the priest washed her from head to foot with soap. After this, he again made the sign of the cross upon the girl's body with a wax taper, cut off some of her hair, and again putting on her clothes, carried her three several times round the font, accompanied by the godmother, bearing two lighted candles of enormous size; the godfather also following with a third. This done, the lips of the child were pressed against the pictures of the Saviour and the Virgin; and thus the ceremony concluded. The father was asked, about the middle of the service, for the name he had selected; upon which demand, he gave one long enough for an empress. The common one of Dudu, which signifies a parrot, suited not his taste. On leaving the chapel, all present retired to an upper room in the convent, to drink coffee prepared for us by the nuns; and here the godmother presented ten leptas to each of the poor women of the village who had just witnessed the christening of her goddaughter."

This ceremony was naturally followed by a dance:—

"All Greeks are passionately fond of this amusement, which is encouraged by the priests, who sanction its indulgence even on the Sabbath. Any exclusion from a village ball is unknown; no invitations are necessary. The doors of a house are thrown open, the guitar and fiddle strike up, accompanied by the stentorian voices of the musicians, and the rooms are instantaneously filled, as it were by magic. Even women with infants in arms, are admitted. The occasional squalling of these brats adds to the fun. No waltzing, no quadrilling, has yet reached Pyrgo. The old Greek dance is all-sufficient; it maintains its ground on an earthen floor, and laughs at innovation. Some people even bring their own provisions; and the host is seldom expected to be prepared with more than a 'clean swept floor,' and a few musicians. A man of the name of Stratti is the Weppert of Oxomaria. His costume is purely Hellenic, with one exception—a pair of English top-boots. With these, he stamps out the time in a manner that out-Herods Herod; and, as he is thus enabled to confine his fiddle-stick to the strings of the instrument, instead of flourishing it in the air for the mere purpose of heating time, which his boots more strikingly effect, the chief charm of Oriental music—noise—is, much to the gratification of his audience, considerably increased.—Now that fairs are, unfortunately, going out of fashion in England, the poor unprotected showmen may perhaps find it a profitable speculation to forward all their gongs and big drums to Greece and Turkey. Although, as I have already said, he who gives a dance is expected to prepare but his rooms, and to 'find out Sneak's noise'; nevertheless, even this, the music, is not at his sole expense. For after each bout, the young men who have figured in the dance always throw the musicians a few leptas or a drachma, which contributions, during the afternoon or an evening, generally amount to a sufficient sum to remunerate them handsomely. At the present ball there was a large attendance of the villagers, whose unrestrained mirth, beautiful costumes, and activity of limb, produced a scene much more picturesque and animating than any to be met with in 'bonnie Scotland,' rejoicing as she does in the variety of her tartans and the deserved

reputation of her 'Highland fling.' But, notwithstanding all the capers, and the double-shuffles, and the stamps, and the shouts, and the screams, and the squallings, and the laughter, and the songs, and the twangings, and the flourishings of guitars, fiddles, men, women, and children—notwithstanding all this hubbub, not only a few of the peasants fell fast asleep, but even the priest Maevromara added his nasal music to the roar. Nodding was now the order of the night. * * But the greater proportion of the company having maintained the dance right merrily to a late hour, manifested at length a disposition to depart. Coffee was then prepared over the charcoal fires of several *mangals*; after drinking which, each visitor lit his own lantern and moved homewards."

The account of the little island of Tino is, perhaps, the most interesting part of the volume. The morning after the christening, Mr. Knight started for a stroll among the mountains, and entered the church of St. George:—

"I here found," he says, "a party of wood-cutters, who had just lit a candle before the picture of the patron saint. There are many of these small churches in the hills, which although ever open, are never robbed. Oil and candles are always left in the interior, in order that no one may lack the opportunity of thus honouring his favourite saint. Being in many cases distant from any village, the visits of the clergy to these chapels are not very frequent. When I now quitted St. George, the wood-cutters had finished their devotions, and we strolled onwards together. They kindly endeavoured to persuade me not to pursue my intention of ascending the heights, stating as a reason, that 'the hills were infested with an enormous serpent—that his head was as large as a bull's, and his tail as long as the lighthouse at Siria!' From this description I apprehended, that in these days of travelling, the American sea-serpent might have taken it into his head to indulge in a terrestrial tour, or that perhaps a resurrection of the Dragon of Wantley had occurred. That there are immense snakes and serpents in Tino, cannot, with any truth, be denied; which circumstance led to its being formerly called Ophiussa."

The people, Mr. Knight tells us, are simple-hearted and industrious,—the great mass, indeed, of the Greek population far better than he had expected to find them.

"The girls generally rise at four in the morning, employ themselves in making gloves or stockings, for exportation or home use; breakfast about seven, after returning from church; start away at eight for wood and water; and return to assist in preparing dinner, which, in Tino, generally takes place at twelve. In the afternoon, they attend to various household affairs, or go down to the washing-pools with the clothes of the family; return early to the evening meal; go to a dance, or a neighbour's for a gossip; and before retiring to rest, roast and grind coffee, make bread, and otherwise prepare for the morrow. The men almost invariably attend to the shops, and work in the gardens or quarries. To procure wood, it is necessary to proceed into the mountains, which generally occupies three hours; and this trip is made by some member of each family, four times a week. They start away in parties of eight or ten, generally carrying, for provision, a few baked figs, as hard as walnuts; a little bread, but scarcely ever meat. The large load of furze, or friggan, with which each person returns, would be cheerfully sold for the small sum of twenty-five leptas. It is so heavy, that but few English girls of an equal age could carry it. This wood is chiefly used for the purposes of cooking, the rooms being, in most instances, warmed by earthen or copper mangals filled with charcoal. Iron grates are seldom seen, and cooking is carried on by means of a stone nearly two yards in length and one in breadth. In this, are five perpendicular circular holes, the bottom part of each of which is met by another, cut horizontally in the form of an arch. A few iron bars form a division between them. Over the upper holes, which contain the fuel, are placed the 'pots and pans,' and thus the lower space both receives the ashes and admits the necessary current of air. From the immense number of fairs rigidly observed by the Greeks, it is occasionally very difficult for an Englishman to obtain, in some of the villages, a meal exactly suitable to his desires. Thus,

if he suddenly want mutton on a day when meat is forbidden, his only remedy is to have a sheep slain for his own use. In Pyrgo, such an order does not entail much expense. When once placed in this carnivorous necessity myself, I had a lamb killed, of twelve pounds weight, for which I was only charged ten English pence; being a less price than that of an astako or lobster in the very same village, notwithstanding its vicinity to the sea. Wine is generally sold at a penny a bottle. Nevertheless, intoxication is rarely met with in the island. Although Pyrgo contained three thousand inhabitants in 1837, there was no shop for the sale of bread. All was then home-made and generally excellent. The only objection was the large size of the loaves. When the grain is sent to be ground, the miller receives, instead of money for his labour, one oke of flour, or nearly three pounds English weight, for every twelve okes of grain. The inhabitants prefer coffee to tea, which is here called 'tehy,' a word current both in Turkey and several parts of Russia. Butter and cheese are execrable; and honey, which is here finer than in any other place in the Archipelago, is therefore generally substituted for the former. English cheese, however, finds its way into Tino from the opposite island of Syra, whither it is brought by British vessels, many of which make a point of touching at this place on their way to Smyrna, Constantinople, or Odessa. The honey of Tino, spread over a Lokma cake, affords a delicious *morceau*. The Lokma is a flour cake as large as an egg, and is much esteemed by all classes in Greece and Turkey. Fish is sold at two-pence the pound; but the most curious dish I met with was one called Trigonina, made of pickled doves and pigeons. Fruit and vegetables are superabundant."

Tino is celebrated for its marble quarries; yet such is the state of the roads, that the blocks and slabs are carried by men or on mule-back to the shipping ports. The village of Pyrgo, though the whole population does not exceed 3,000, contains fifteen churches; only one, however, has a burial ground attached.

"In passing towards the entrance," says Mr. Knight, "I was much struck with the beauty of the marble gravestones, which form a wide pavement around the edifice. The Greeks frequently denote by these slabs the trades of their dead, by cutting in relief various figures corresponding with certain occupations. The custom, however, is more general among the Armenians of Constantinople and Asia Minor, and even yet may, perhaps, at a future period, be adopted in England. One of the stones which now caught my eye indicated that the deceased had been a sailor, by a most faithful representation of two ships close-hauled under topsails and top-gallant sails."

The island is about sixty miles in circumference.

"It is very mountainous, but fertile, producing wheat, barley, silk, olives, figs, wine, rackee, wax, and unrivalled honey, hares, wild pigeons, and doves, sheep, pigs, and poultry. It has two or three small rivers, countless fountains of excellent water, most valuable marble and stone quarries, three or four towns, nearly seventy villages, in which almost all the houses are built of glittering stone, innumerable convents and churches, millions of snakes, some few jackalls, and about thirty thousand inhabitants. Strong gloves, stockings, and stuffs, are manufactured in the island, and small marble figures are occasionally sculptured in a manner that would do credit to Italy."

Here we might conclude, having quoted enough to give the reader an idea of the work, but that there is one subject to which we wish to direct the attention of future travellers, and our foreign minister; for this purpose we shall extract Mr. Knight's account of his first landing in Asia.

"We were now in the 'broad Hellespont,' and, after beating against the strong current till five o'clock in the afternoon, again brought up on the Asian shore, between White Cliffs—called Ak Yar by the Turks—and Point Barbieri. The view was superb. The foaming, sparkling stream was studied with every variety of shipping; and on its continent-dividing waves, fell the faint shadows of the hills of Europe, till, in some parts, they almost reached the margin of the Asian plains. These were backed with a

noble range of mountains, and, notwithstanding a sandy and somewhat barren appearance, when contrasted with the luxuriant and well-wooded valleys of the opposite coast, they presented, altogether, an extensive and fascinating prospect. Here the eye fell on formidable fortifications; the green marquees of the Nizam Djedid; the black tents of wandering tribes, with feeding flocks and herds; and ever and anon appeared a long line of slowly-pacing camels, plodding onward under the cheering sound of their tinkling bells. Then came a crowd of turbaned horsemen, not clad in the foolish fashion of the west, but in some dashing oriental dress, exciting the envy of each passing Infidel. Next appeared a party of the fair sex, scornful of the use of side-saddles, each being seated *à l'Amazon* on the well-padded back—not of an Arab steed, as might be expected—but content with the poor services of a donkey. Then, at full speed, was seen a Tartar camping, amid clouds of dust, with despatches, destined, perchance, to raise a peasant to a pashalic. It needed not the blood-red banner, or the heaven-pointed minaret, to show the land was Turkish; for here and there a quiet group of bearded smokers was seated cross-legged, near a fountain, under, perhaps, their favourite tree, sipping in silence their unsugared coffee, and disdaining *e'en* to mingle it with milk.

"Before sunset I landed on the Asian shore, and during a walk of an hour's duration sprang some hundreds of red-legged partridges—keckleek—and saw nearly as many tortoises. A party of Austrian sailors captured several of the latter, which they carried on board for supper. Early the next morning—the Etesian still continuing—I proceeded in one of the ship's boats to the town of Tchanak Kaleh—occasionally called Sultanieh Kaleh—distant some six miles from our anchorage, and situate on the Asian shore, immediately opposite Killid Bahr. Between these two towns and fortresses the Hellespont is merely three-quarters of a mile in breadth."

A fire in 1836 had destroyed the Pasha's palace, several of the consulates, and some hundred of houses:—

"Twelve months afterwards the ruins were not cleared away; the minaret of the mosque stood like a tall column recording the event, its sides blackened from the effects of the flames; and around it, reaching to the water's edge, were tents in which business was carried on, apparently with as much content as might have been derived from the possession of the most convenient shops. It was said that the sultan objected to this part of the town being rebuilt, as an open space in the immediate vicinity of the castle was deemed necessary by his officers for military purposes. The general appearance of the place was very striking. Here and there appeared, above a heap of rubbish, the flag-staff of some consulate, bearing the national colours; in the rear was the town; on the right, the fortifications; on the left, the smoking potteries; and near the landing-places, and strolling among the tents, a most motley assemblage. It was market-day, Wednesday. Camels carrying all sorts of commodities were lazily moving onwards, or kneeling to receive their loads; buffaloes drawing arabahs made of wicker, and perched upon creaking wooden wheels, in form and size exactly resembling large mill-stones; crowds of the Nizam Djedid in blue uniforms and white cross-belts; dragomen or consular interpreters, in flowing robes and white kalpaks; crimson-coated Tatars of the pasha; dervishes wearing the towering *goulaff*, which head-dress, though generally white or brown, is frequently at Tchanak Kaleh of a red colour, from so many Becks and shees living in the town; itinerant vendors of cakes, sherbet, and fruit; groups of Frank seamen purchasing provisions; Turkish women, enveloped in snow-white garments, hiding all but their entrancing eyes;—such were the characters, that in combination, in ever-shifting groups, buying, selling, and smoking, aye, and even praying in the open air—such were the characters that, mingling with the calculating Jew, the chattering Greek, or the monosyllabic Moslem, realized the pleasing visions, produced 'many a time and oft,' in the days of my early boyhood, by a perusal of the 'Arabian Nights.' Nor was the negro Haddim wanting—the black guardian of the harem—proud of his fiery, and in his heart ferocious as a tiger, though kinder here, perchance, than at Constantinople, the strong-hold of jealousy. One person wandering through the crowd I must not

forget. He was employed in the anti-oriental occupation of a shoe-black. I refer to him, that future travellers may not remain ignorant of this man's being the grandson of an individual who for many years was British Consul in the Dardanelles. The family are now in the deepest distress; and few, who are aware of the hospitality once extended to English, when the Tarraganos were employed under the protection of the British flag,—which, in troublous times, ere the Faithful were so friendly with the Frank, they successfully upheld in honour so far as civil officers could do,—few who are aware of what this family then was, will pass through Tchanak Kaleh, and not endeavour to better their present condition. Many will feel bound to do so, as a return for kindnesses received by their kinsmen from those of the family whom the grave now shelters from the fate of the survivors. Lord Palmerston should be petitioned to grant them a thousand piastres—ten pounds—per annum. During his long services to the state, he must have seen hundreds of pensions less deservedly bestowed. The name of Tarragano is mentioned in many works. In 'A Journey in Asia Minor, in 1801, by Dr. Hunt and Professor Carlyle,' which may be found at p. 92 of 'Walpole's Memoirs relating to European and Asiatic Turkey,' in the quarto edition of 1818, Dr. Hunt says, 'Here we lodged at the house of Signor Tarragano, whose family has held the consulship of England for a long series of years.' This was in 1801; and in 1810, Lord Byron writes: 'Our consul, Tarragano, tried to dissuade us from the attempt of swimming across the Hellespont.' I might easily quote more, yet I hope this brief statement may prove sufficient for the purpose for which it is intended."

We hope so too; and that the subject may be brought under consideration was our principal purpose in extracting the passage. With like feelings we direct attention to the following account of the English Hospital at Constantinople:—

"I call with confidence upon every British traveller into whose hands this humble volume may fall, to visit—if he touch at Constantinople—the ENGLISH HOSPITAL. Far be it from me to say, who is to blame; but I fearlessly assert that this establishment in the Turkish capital is a disgrace to the British nation! It is—or was in 1836 and 1837—little better than a dog-kennel; and therein, during the winter of the latter year, I saw the shipwrecked crews of the *Lyra*, *Trio*, and *Midas*—three English merchantmen lost in the Black Sea, shivering with cold, badly fed, scarcely covered with decent clothing, and almost without beds, when the snow was some feet deep in many parts of the capital. I visited this 'hospital' not alone, and can by witnesses substantiate, if necessary, more than I have set down. I, however, despair not of seeing an improvement in such matters, if travellers will regard the 'English hospital at Constantinople' as one of the 'lions' of the city, and make a point of visiting the establishment. Other nations are not so careless of their seamen, the French and Austrians especially. Their hospitals require no 'reform!'"

The little volume has appended to it a short English and Turkish Vocabulary, the French Tariff respecting the Mediterranean steam-boats, and a map,—things of more pretence than value.

THE ANNUALS FOR 1840.

Heath's Book of Beauty should this year have been named the 'Book of Rank,' for, to speak the rude truth, some of the ladies portrayed in its pages have but slight claims to the painter's or poet's honour, save such as belong to their station. The Countess Zavadowsky will be singled out by most persons as the "bright particular star" of the Gallery. The letter-press, in its variety, far outstrips the engravings. Lady Blessington always assembles contributors not to be met with elsewhere—some offering choice specimens of fancy and feeling. The following, for instance, cannot fail to be quoted and admired, though it is anything rather than what its author destined—namely, a song for music:—

The Wife to the Wooer. (For Music.)

BY SIR E. LYTTON BULWER, BART.

Well, then, since scorn has failed to cure
The love you press so blindly,
For once your reasons I'll endure
And answer follies kindred;
I'll grant that you, more fair and gay
Than Luke to some may be:
But light itself when he's away,
Is never gay to me!
Then go—then go: for whether or no
He's fair, he's so to me!
His woods your summer-love may wreath
In florid smiles and gladness;
His lips, more often, only breathe
The trouble and the sadness—
But ah! so sweet a trust to truth,
That confidence of care!
More joy one grief of his to soothe
Than all your bliss to share.
Then go—then go: for whether or no
He grieve, 'tis bliss to share!

You say that he can meet or leave
Unmoved—content without me;
Nor rocks what snare neglect may weave—
Too heedless *e'en* to doubt me.
Ah! jealous cares are poor respect!
He knows my heart, my guide;
And what you deem is to neglect,
I feel is to confide!
Then go—then go: for whether or no
I'll think he does confide.

And Luke, you say, can sternly look,
And sometimes speak severely;
Your eyes, your vow, could ne'er rebuke—
Your whispers breathe austerely.
How know you of the coming cares
His anxious eyes foresee?
Perhaps the shade his temper wears
Is thought for mine and me!
Then go—then go: for whether or no,
His frown has smiles for me.

But Luke, you hint, to others gives
The love that he denies me;
And hard, you say, in youth to live,
Without one heart to prize me!
Well, if the parent rose be shed
The buds are on the stem;
My babes—his love can ne'er be dead
His soul has fled to them.
Then go—then go!—His rival? No:
His rival lives in them.

Beside this, we will place something more tempting to the composer, and more practicable to the singer:—

A Love Song.

BY BARRY CORNWALL.

Laugh not, nor weep: but let thine eyes
Grow soft and dim (so love should be)
And be thy breathing tender, quick,
And tremulous, whilst I gaze on thee.
And let thy words be few or none:
But murmurs such as soothe the air
In summer, when the day is done,
Be heard, sweet heart, when I am there.
And I—oh! in those soft times
When all around is still and sweet,
Will love thee more a thousand times
Than if the world was at thy feet!

Two more detached fragments of love poetry—as faithful to truth as sweetly chimed—by Mr. Milnes:—

Till death the tide of thought may stem,
There's little chance of our forgetting
The highland tarn, the water gem,
With all its rugged mountain setting.
Our spirits followed every cloud—
That on it, and within it, floated;
Our joy in all the scene was loud,
But one thing silently we noted:—

That though the glorious summer hue
That steeped the heavens could scarce be brighter,
The blue below was still more blue,
The very light itself was lighter.
And each the other's fancy caught,
By one instinctive glance directed,
How doubly glowed the poet's thought,
In the beloved one's breast reflected.

When long upon the scales of fate
The issue of my passion hung,
And on your eyes I laid in wait,
And on your brow, and on your tongue.
High frowning nature pleased me most—
Strange pleasure was it to discern
Sharp rocks, and mountains peaked with frost,
Through gorges thick with fir and fern.
The flowerless walk, the vapoury shrouds,
Could comfort me; though best of all,
I loved the daughter of the clouds—
The wild, capricious waterfall.

But now that you and I repose
On one affection's certain store,
Serenely charms take place of those—
Plenty and peace, and little more.
The hill that lends its mother-breast
To patient flocks and gentle kine;
The vale that spreads its royal vest
Of golden corn and purple vine.
The streams that bubble out their mirth
In humble nooks, or calmly flow,
The crystal life-blood of our earth,
Are now the dearest sights I know.

Lest our readers should be led, from the somewhat unusual colour of our extracts, to imagine that the 'Book of Beauty' is monotonously devoted to utterances of the tender passion, we must, in parting, call their attention to prose which our limits forbid us to extract: to Mr. Landon's Imaginary Conversation between Milton, Galileo, and a Dominican—to clever and characteristic tales by the Editress, Mr. Wilkinson, and Mr. J. R. Chorley—to the 'Russian Sketches' of Lady Londonderry—and to 'El Noviazco,' a singular picture of life in Seville, by Mr. Cuthbert.

The *Keepsake* is, this year, as last, under the superintendence of Lady Emmeline Stuart Wortley, who has given its literary contents a character somewhat individual and distinctive: for besides the usual Annual staple of tales sentimental or stimulating, and of verse in which rhyme preponderates over reason, the Editress has drawn upon the charter-chest of Belvoir Castle for some original letters of Lady Rachel Russell. The two which we shall give, though devoted to trifling matters—have, perhaps, for that very reason, an interest and a significance. According to our theory, the wife could hardly have sate so calmly before her husband, lovingly performing the office of his secretary at a time of such fearful suspense as his trial, if the woman had not been well practised in those unobtrusive domestic cares and virtues which form no part of the life of a tragedy heroine:—

"4th June, 1700.

"I'm glad you have got y^e picture for tho' I believe it may not be valuable from y^e goodness of y^e work, yet I doubt not but you prize it, as being y^e Grandmother, I spose you want no more tea, but if you do I can supply, for I bought one pound of the City tea, y^e better sort, and being one day at Lady Sunderlands we drank tea was good I thought and saying soe she commended it highly, and then I asked her where she had, she said of Mr. Segworth t'was the best Keper in towne and she believed she could help me to a pound, but I took no notice of her saying soe, but however the day after her Lad^y was gone, hur servant brought me a pound, I asked what it cost he said 30 shil: so I found t'was not a present, I keep it close and t'other also, and if want not perhaps they shal be unopened, or at least halfe pound pots, when you come up. I know not a silable of newes; our vacant places y^e wil be, we do not hear who shal fill them; and one more is like to fall, — is very ill spitting blood, it seems an old complaint but very bad now. Soe is as I beleve rateliffe thinks Lady Allington she was to go to y^e bath in al hast, but in a few days he changed his mind, says she is to weak and now must drink brisow waters here, and change the aire, he thinks hur lungs touched, she continues low and faint, my brother James is not wel, a terrible cough really like a chin cough, and is mighty stufed too so y^e later in y^e night he was forced to let blood, and continues feavourish, he had a blister laid on—I have not heard to day how he is but shal before I seal. Lord bedforde holds up wel. Tomorrow is y^e instalment at winsor, I conclude, tho' ther has bin a report because y^e Lord albarckes mother is dead the seremony should be put off but I guesse a little malice in y^e lord devon, lord rochester and lord Dorset are y^e assistant lords, y^e — has y^e duchesse of norfolks jewels—they talke she is near a marriage, but nobody names who, nor wife for y^e lord at present; we linger in our remove for Straton, no day yet set, y^e sister has not got off hur cold yet at y^e chimney firing, but I hope to send you word she is prity wel today. at present my services conclude from y^e affect. mother,

"Y^e sister is finely wel.

R. RUSSELL."

"From the Same to the Same.

"I have bin under great anxietie til y^e post came yesterday, for tho' Belvoir is so strong a building and I feared accidents ther as little as any where, yet so many dismal ones have fallen upon so many y^e wold justifie a mighty apprehension. I blesse God we are al wel, but the chimney were my son and his wife lay fel, and y^e bricks and soot coming downe y^e chimney made them rise at six a clock and come in my drawingroome; y^e wal of y^e garden fel next y^e field and al y^e trees bent one side to y^e very ground. But at Straton my losse is worse in al respects, by farnes tore to pieces, corne and hay dispersed seen hanging on y^e trees, and amongs y^e trees neer the house the fir grove, as richard writes, intirely broke and tore up by y^e roots; I send Spenser tomorrow to sie if tis in nature possible to get up but a row round y^e ground. hampshire is al desolation. devon-house scapet better than any house I hear of. Many killed in country as wel as in towne. Lady penelope wicklesse killed in her bed at ther country house, and he in y^e sam bed saved, a peice of timber falling between his legs, and kept of y^e bricks, but 'tis innumerable y^e mischiefs and y^e preservations; sea matters yet too unsertaine, so sertaine beaumont lost, and wonderfully lamented, and 5 ships upon y^e sands, no newes yet y^e to be relied on of Sir Shovel; I'm sorry y^e lord lost his match, but really the present calamity takes up al my thoughts. 'Tis time to dine, so must end y^e from y^e affect. mother,

R. RUSSELL."

"Tuesday 30 November.

"The Czar affords talke, y^e Duke zel treated him highly, and the Duchesse and Duchesse Brandenburg incognito stood behind his chair at dinner, upon whom he spit often and when he had eat as much as he wold he whistled and then one of his attendants brought a broom and swept the roome, he bought a ship at Amsterdam and made himself a cabin very convenient, he works carpenders work exceeding wel, I am hasting to my work seting up by y^e sister. Lady Sander is to be admitted to picket this evening."

Another paper of interest, is Lady E. S. Wortley's own account of a banquet given to her by Khosrew Pacha, at his palace on the banks of the Bosphorus. The whole of this pleasant excerpt from a journal is beyond our grasp—but we shall give a few fragments; first, the visit to the Harem, to which the English guest was conducted by the Seraskier himself, while dinner was preparing:

"As soon as the doors were opened, I was met by the Seraskier's wife, who advanced with much grace and dignity to greet me, accompanied by the Greek lady I mentioned before: the Seraskier's wife welcomed me in the kindest and most courteous manner imaginable. She was no longer young, but possessed the remains of very great and resplendent beauty; her features were exquisitely modelled; her complexion and skin still very fine; her eyes of eastern darkness, depth, and softness, and her hair silky and glossy, and of a beautiful auburn hue. Her picturesque and superb costume it would be difficult to describe, and, to the uninitiated in the complicated details of a Turkish lady's toilette, such description would only present a series of confused names, and afford no correct or distinct idea. I will therefore avoid dilating upon all the multifarious mysteries of robes, antiques, girdles, turbans, &c., and merely state, that the *tout ensemble* was the perfection of magnificence and splendour, and would put all the professors of mortal millinery in modern Europe to the blush. My courteous hostess conducted me to the top of the room, and placed me by her side on a luxuriously-cushioned throne-like seat, reaching along the whole length of the windows, which entirely occupied the upper end of that princely apartment, spreading from side to side, ascending from the floor to the ceiling. The Prussian Baroness was seated on a chair placed on the side, and the Greek lady and her two daughters nearly opposite. As soon as I had leisure to look around me, I was struck by the brilliant appearance presented by a large semicircle of sumptuously-attired slaves, who stood before us in graceful attitudes, motionless as a group of beautiful statues; no train of duchesses, and high-born damsels at court, ever displayed such wealth of matchless jewellery, I verily believe, certainly never such splendid variety of

apparel; they all wore long flowing trains of most resplendent colours, and exquisite materials, loading the floor with a weight of richness. Their loose, sweeping, immense outer sleeves, hung down to their feet, finely fringed, bordered, and flowered, or starred all over with sparkling gold and silver, or wrought silk of vivid and various dyes; but have I not vowed *not* to be verbose on the subject of dresses and draperies, silks and satins, gold and gear?"

These gorgeously-clad prisoners made much of their visitor. When she went to take leave of them after the feast, the Seraskier's wife offered the Englishwoman "the young houri," a maiden of great loveliness, as a present for her husband! and yet more, in the fulness of great intimacy, subjected Lady E. S. Wortley to "such a tremendous dose of tickling," that the latter had like to have gone into convulsions. We must have a snatch at the banquet which pre-faced these courtesies:—

"The interior of the room made me think of Aladdin's palace; but my eyes and my imagination were completely dazzled, and the gorgeous vision seemed to overtax the senses, and to assume the vague features of a dream. I was recalled, however, from my aerial phantasies to earthly realities and sober reason, by the Seraskier asking me whether I would prefer a dinner in the Turkish or in the Christian fashion. The Prussian Baron, who happened to be standing by me, whispered, 'Choose the Turkish, pray!' and I directly did so. The Pacha looked much pleased, and directed us to take our seats at a table placed near the window overlooking the river. In the middle of this table was an immense tureen of soup; beautifully embroidered napkins, fringed with gold, were laid in readiness for the use of each guest, but neither plates, knives, nor forks, were to be seen; spoons, indeed, there were in profusion. As soon as we were ranged around the table, servants came and brought a most splendid cloth of tissue of gold and silver, of very large size, wrought all over with coloured flowers and devices; this they arranged so as to go completely round the table, covering us all from the waist to the knees. Besides this, they fastened the embroidered napkins round our shoulders and throats. We must have presented a rather singular appearance, clothed, as we were, in this sumptuous array!—Each person then armed himself with a spoon of somewhat formidable dimensions; and, I confess, I began to repent the rash precipitation and presumption of my choice—my fool-hardy intrepidity—and to tremble for what was to follow; a consciousness of fearful awkwardness rushed upon me! How was I to convey the liquid from the vessel in which it was deposited to its destination without spilling some drops over the beauteous shroud which enveloped me? for I felt my unpractised hand would falter in the act! I was the person, too, who was expected and called upon to begin. The Seraskier looked on, smilingly, at my embarrassment—there was a pause—an awful one;—now for the plunge—the onset! At this moment, our good-natured host relieved me from my uneasy situation, by begging me to lay aside my spoon, to divest myself of my share of the splendid but somewhat cumbersome paraphernalia of the table, and invited us all to partake of a Frank dinner, instead of a Turkish one, (which former appeared to have been prepared by magic,) saying with a laugh, that we had played at eating a Mahometan repast, we should now in reality assist in demolishing a Christian one; adding, that he thought we had at present a good idea of what a dinner *a-la-Turque* was. He then rose from his seat and led the way to a table in the centre of the saloon; we all followed his example, nothing loth, and found this table in every way arranged according to the most approved notions of civilized European life: knives, forks, spoons, plates, &c., in rich abundance. Everything was in perfection of taste, and in great splendor. I wish I could give even the slightest idea of the excellent beauty of the princely room in which we were assembled, with its vast glass walls on either side—for to call them windows must convey a false impression of their majestic proportions—the lovely, the surpassing prospects these so brilliantly afforded—the gorgeous furniture and adornments of the spacious chamber itself, lofty and columned, with its gildings and its arabesques, its cloths of gold, and silks of more

than Tyrian dye. * * I have said all the appliances were complete: the plate was goodly and massive, the porcelain exceedingly beautiful. The Pacha informed us it came from Berlin; it excited the admiration of the whole company, and the Prussian Baron and Baroness appeared proud of what their country could produce. The plot now thickened. Innumerable slaves and servants glided to and fro incessantly, and every instant presented fresh dishes to each guest, nameless for us (though when we a moment hesitated, the official whispered in our ear some mystical Turkish name, which but little illuminated our mental darkness), and apparently numberless! It seemed to us the courses were mixed in inextricable confusion, but I believe there was method in their mixture, though it was not discoverable to our unpractised eyes: at least six separate courses of fish appeared at certain intervals; also courses of confectionary, &c. and viands without end, dressed in every imaginable and unimaginable manner; some that I tasted were most excellent, and worthy specimens of a Turkish *cuisine*, (for although the banquet was conducted in the Frank style, its component parts were eminently oriental). After dishes upon dishes had been presented and removed, with almost preternatural celerity (which made me think of the bodiless hands in the fairy tales), till I was really dizzy and distracted by their multitudes and rapid succession, at what I in my ignorance conceived to be the end of the feast (as there was a slight pause, a breathing-moment), the Seraskier begged Namik Pacha to inform us he was about to drink our good healths *à l'Anglaise*. * * If I had imagined the truly sumptuous banquet was drawing to a close, I was destined soon to be convinced how grievously I was mistaken. Hostilities recommenced with incredible and increased ardour—the rapid discharge of dishes became quite appalling—we were quickly enveloped in the smoke of a hundred steaming viands—the fire seemed every moment to redouble—the *batteries de cuisine* appeared indeed inexhaustible. * * Great was our

surprise when suddenly appeared before our eyes in all its froth of glory—and what is glory but froth?—that truly British beverage yeilded bottled porter, purposely sent for from Pera by His Highness, to do honour to his English guests. I believe I have not mentioned that there was also sparkling champagne, which the Frank gentlemen pronounced to be excellent. I must not omit saying that very good cheese formed part of the repast; made, as Namik Pacha told us, at the Seraskier's own dairies. Still there were no signs of slackening in the evolutions of the legions of domestics, who unwearingly continued plying their arduous task. I had dined an hour ago, and could not resist asking Namik Pacha in a low voice, whether this sumptuous feast of a thousand and one dishes was indeed interminable. The Seraskier—who I verily think heard with his eyes, the quick penetrating glances of which it was impossible to escape—immediately asked Namik Pacha if I was not tired with the length of the entertainment; without consulting me as to his answer, Namik Pacha replied in the affirmative; adding, however, how much I had expressed my surprise and admiration at the extraordinarily lavish display of luxury and profusion I had beheld. The Seraskier then told Namik Pacha to acquaint me that he should instantly order the pilaw to be brought, which always concluded the feast, although at that moment only half the dinner had been served!"

These long passages leave us but scanty space for remarking that the 'Keepsake,' as regards its illustrations, is neither better nor worse than usual. The four subjects we like best are the Modish Lady in the frontispiece, one of Mr. Chalon's prettiest affectations—Mr. Leslie's 'Mary,' as the improvisatrice—Mr. Montagu's 'Invalid,' and Mr. Cattermole's Crypt, with a lady kneeling before a monument, which bears the awkward title of 'The Tomb of the last heir of M—.'

List of New Books.—Memoirs of Harriet, Duchess of St. Alban's, 2 vols. post 8vo. 24s.—Mackenzie on the Eye, 3rd edit. 8vo. cl. 25s.—Peter Parley's Annual, 1840, square, cl. 5s.—Treatises on Poetry, Modern Romance, &c. from the Encyclopedia Britannica, crown 8vo. cl. 6s.—Adcock's Engineer's Pocket-Book for 1840, roan tuck, 6s.—Sketches and Souvenirs, or Records of Other Days, by E. F. G. cl. 5s.—Viola the Affianced, or Tia an Old Tale and Old Told, 2nd edit. post 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.—Alexander's Oriental Dictionary, Vol. I. 8vo. cl. 14s.—Tegner's Pithibio's Saga, 8vo. silk, 15s.—Prest's Elementary Drawing-Book, oblong, cl. 10s. 6d.—Pallett's Illustrations to Nickleby, 8vo. swd. 9s.—History of England, by a Clergyman, Vol. VII. 12mo. bds. 10s. 6d.—Keightley's History of England, 3 vols. 8vo. cl. 12. 11s. 6d.—Scripture and Geology, by John P. Smith, post 8vo. cl. 10s. 6d.—Medical Etiquette, by Abraham Banks, fc. cl. 3s. 6d.—The Clouds and Peace of Arctophanes, in English Prose, 8vo. bds. 6s.—Life of the Rev. H. Martyn, 12mo. cl. 7s. 6d.—Boyd's (Rev. A.) Letters on Episcopacy, &c. 12mo. cl. 4s. 6d.—The Church Catechism of Rome, translated by the Rev. R. I. McGhee, 12mo. cl. 2s. 6d.—Newman's Emendations of the Authorised Version of the Old Testament, 8vo. bds. 4s.—Porter's Churchman's Family Prayer Book, 8vo. cl. 7s. 6d.—Priestley's Memoirs of the Rev. John Hessel, 12mo. cl. 4s.—Wilkinson's Scripture Maps, 4to. cl. coloured, 7s.—Beddow's Poems, "Miracles in Egypt," &c. 5s. 12mo. cl. 4s.—Venal Indulgences of the Church of Rome, by the Rev. J. Mendham, 12mo. cl. 4s. 6d.—Hard on the Prophecies, with Preparatory Remarks, by Bickersteth, 4s.—Sonnets, by Lady E. S. Wortley, royal 12mo. cl. 6s.—The Jesuits, from the German of Spindler, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s.—Bickersteth's Chief Concerns of Man, 3to. edit. 12mo. cl. 5s.—Bickersteth's Practical Guide to Prophecies, 6th edit. fc. cl. 6s.—The Protestant Army, 12mo. cl. 7s.—Kirkc White's Remains and Life, by Southey, 2 vols. 8vo. cl. 24s.—Browning's Great Britain, 8vo. cl. 16s.—Sterne's Sentimental Journey, new edit. with illustrations, 8vo. cl. 8s.—Gideon, or the Humble Christian, by Henry Wadsworth, 2 vols. 12mo. cl. 12s.—Wilson's Christian Services, 8vo. cl. 6s. 6d.—De Vogt's Works, Vol. I. fc. cl. 5s.—Phillips on the Effect of Colour, oblong 4to. cl. 21s.—Peter Parley's Victoria Game of British Sovereigns, 4s.—The Vicar's Fireside, square, cl. 3s. 6d.—Memoirs of Female Labourers in the Missionary Cause, with Introduction, by Knill, 32mo. 1s. 6d. cl. 2s. 6d. silk.—Select Memoirs of Young Christian Females, by a Lady, 32mo. cl. 1s. 6d. silk, 2s. 6d.—Oliver and Boyd's Threepenny Almanack for 1840, 18mo. swd.—Victoria Golden Almanack for 1840, 32mo. swd. 6d.—The Artistic Clerk's Manual, 3rd edit. 12mo. cl. 8s.—Waterson's Wanderings, 4th edit. 12mo. cl. 6s.—Whateley's Remarks on Shakespeare, fc. cl. 4s.—Stephens's Manual of British Beetles, post 8vo. cl. 14s.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL for OCTOBER, kept by the Assistant Secretary, at the Apartments of the Royal Society, BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1839.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			External Thermometers.				Rain in inches. Head of at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.		
	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Fahrenheit.		Self-registering						
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.		Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.		9 A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest					
Oct.															
T 1	30.000	29.992	54.6	29.908	29.900	56.9	51	03.2	53.4	61.3	48.4	58.4	ENE	{ A.M. Fine—light fog. P.M. Fine—nearly cloudless—light breeze. { Evening, Light fog.	
W 2	29.688	29.682	56.2	29.674	29.668	58.5	51	04.5	55.8	61.4	50.9	61.8	S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds—fog early. P.M. Lightly cloudy. Even- { ing, Cloudy—light rain.	
T 3	30.004	29.996	54.3	29.912	29.904	55.3	44	04.0	48.7	55.4	44.2	63.0	.102 SSW	{ A.M. Light fog. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, { Overcast—light rain.	
F 4	29.456	29.450	54.8	29.486	29.480	57.0	51	03.7	54.8	58.0	47.9	55.3	.172 S	{ A.M. Overcast—li. rain. P.M. Heavy shower. Ev. Continued rain. { A.M. Overcast—brisk wind, as also during the night. P.M. Cloudy	
S 5	30.018	30.012	54.3	30.136	30.128	56.6	49	02.9	49.5	53.5	49.3	60.0	.538 NW	{ —light wind. Evening, Fine and clear.	
○ 6	30.302	30.298	51.9	30.284	30.280	54.0	47	03.3	49.8	56.6	44.7	52.3	N	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Lightly overcast—light { wind. Evening, Fine and clear.	
W 7	30.298	30.292	51.6	30.260	30.252	54.0	46	04.1	51.3	56.2	45.9	52.0	N	{ Fine—li. clouds & wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine and clear.	
T 8	30.120	30.114	52.9	30.042	30.036	55.2	47	04.0	52.8	58.8	51.0	53.3	NW	{ Overcast—light fog and wind throughout the day. Ev. The like.	
W 9	29.876	29.868	57.3	29.840	29.832	60.0	55	03.7	59.7	62.2	51.4	60.0	S	{ Cloudy—li. wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—rain and wind.	
T 10	29.642	29.636	59.9	29.672	29.666	61.3	57	04.2	60.6	60.5	58.2	60.8	.027 S	{ Fine—li. clouds—high wind throughout the day. Evening, { Cloudy—light shower.	
F 11	29.598	29.594	59.2	29.590	29.584	61.6	57	04.0	59.7	66.6	54.7	62.3	.036 E	{ A.M. Fine and cloudless—light wind. P.M. Light clouds & wind. { Evening, Cloudy—light rain.	
S 12	29.844	29.840	59.9	29.968	29.960	60.0	53	05.4	56.3	63.8	54.3	63.5	.250 S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind—rain during the night. P.M. { Fine—light clouds. Evening, Light fog.	
○ 13	30.020	30.014	56.7	29.996	29.992	58.0	51	03.3	52.3	57.2	49.6	52.4	SE	{ A.M. Thick fog. P.M. Fine—li. clouds—brisk wind. Ev. Fine & clear.	
M 14	29.938	29.932	54.9	29.868	29.862	57.8	52	02.9	54.8	57.8	48.0	55.0	SE	{ Fine—nearly cloudless—li. wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine & clear.	
T 15	29.818	29.812	54.5	29.874	29.868	55.9	49	02.6	52.2	54.4	50.2	59.0	S	{ A.M. Overcast—light mist—cloudy—light wind. Ev. Fine and clear.	
W 16	30.074	30.066	53.3	30.040	30.032	55.2	48	05.0	52.7	55.7	46.2	52.5	.033 SW	{ A.M. Fine and cloudless—light rain during the night. P.M. Fine—light { clouds. Evening, Fine and clear.	
T 17	30.092	30.086	51.6	30.076	30.068	53.7	46	03.1	48.0	56.4	43.8	51.3	S	{ A.M. Fine—light fog. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening, Overcast.	
F 18	29.866	29.858	52.8	29.876	29.870	54.3	50	01.4	50.8	52.5	47.5	54.7	.219 E	{ A.M. Overcast—light mist and wind—heavy rain during the night. { A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. Ev. Overcast—li. rain.	
S 19	30.044	30.036	51.9	30.066	30.058	53.3	48	03.5	50.2	54.7	47.0	51.6	.019 SW	{ A.M. Overcast—light fog and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. { Evening, Light fog.	
○ 20	30.092	30.086	49.4	30.016	30.010	52.0	43	01.6	41.2	55.0	49.6	55.6	W	{ A.M. Thick fog—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. { Evening, Light fog.	
M 21	30.064	30.056	52.6	30.072	30.066	53.9	49	02.3	54.0	56.2	41.0	54.3	ENE	{ Overcast—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Light fog.	
● T 22	30.156	30.148	54.2	30.130	30.124	54.7	50	02.9	53.3	54.7	52.8	53.6	SE	{ Overcast—li. wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—very fine rain.	
W 23	30.086	30.078	54.3	30.060	30.052	54.8	49	03.2	53.2	53.2	52.7	53.4	SE	{ Overcast—light wind throughout the day, with occasional rain. { Evening, The like.	
T 24	30.050	30.042	53.3	30.048	30.042	53.7	49	01.4	48.8	48.8	49.3	49.5	.175 E	{ Overcast—light rain and wind throughout the day. Ev. The like.	
F 25	30.264	30.256	51.3	30.316	30.308	52.2	47	02.3	48.3	48.0	46.4	50.0	.266 NNE	{ A.M. Overcast—very light rain—brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light { clouds and wind. Evening, Cloudy.	
S 26	30.330	30.322	50.0	30.302	30.294	51.2	45	03.0	46.3	49.2	44.0	50.4	N	{ Fine—light clouds & wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine and clear.	
○ 27	30.272	30.268	47.5	30.218	30.212	49.0	42	02.4	42.0	47.0	40.6	50.0	NW	{ A.M. Fine and cloudless—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and { wind. Evening, Overcast—very fine rain and wind.	
M 28	30.314	30.306	45.3	30.314	30.306	47.2	39	02.9	42.7	45.7	40.4	49.0	N	{ A.M. Fine—nearly cloudless—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds { and wind. Evening, Overcast—light rain.	
T 29	30.316	30.308	43.6	30.260	30.254	44.8	37	06.2	42.7	43.8	37.3	47.2	.060 NE	{ A.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. P.M. Fine—li. clouds & wind. Ev. Overcast.	
W 30	30.142	30.134	43.2	30.052	30.046	45.2	38	03.6	41.4	45.8	39.8	45.0	NE	{ Cloudy—li. brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—li. rain.	
T 31	29.940	29.932	42.8	29.876	29.870	42.7	38	01.7	39.3	40.7	39.8	44.8	.061 NE	{ Overcast—li. rain—brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. The like.	
MEAN.	30.023	30.017	52.6	30.008	30.001	54.2	47.7	03.3	50.5	54.6	47.3	54.3	1.958	Sum.	{ Mean Barometer corrected { 9 A.M. 3 P.M. F. 29.962 .. 29.943 C. 29.955 .. 29.943

Note.—The daily observations are recorded just as they are read off from the scale, without the application of any correction whatever.

AMERICAN STATESMEN.

Sketches of Jackson, Van Buren, and Webster.

Boston, October.

IN "America"—(as Europeans usually call it, meaning the *United States*).—we are generally disposed to consider it a matter beyond dispute, that Daniel Webster is, *par excellence*, the great man of the republic. Not that all Americans, or perhaps the majority, will acknowledge this publicly, and in so many words. Political partisans are, all the world over, exceedingly careful as to what they acknowledge. It is in politics as in courts of law, things are admitted which are proved; or, in other words, that conclusion only, which is forced upon the belligerents, they receive, and with what grace they may. Of course, parties and partisans must exist to a peculiar extent, in a country like ours. Political excitement is, in an extraordinary degree, encouraged by our institutions. Almost everybody has a vote; almost everybody is eligible to office; and such is the multiplicity of offices, such as they are, under the Federal government itself, and down through districts, counties, towns, and parishes, and this whole machinery twenty-six times repeated, that it is not to be wondered at if the rage of parties often runs high in the States. It would be wonderful, indeed, if it did not, especially as the entire free population is not only educated, at least able to read and write, but easily put and kept in possession of the political information of the day and of the age, if no more. Under such circumstances, there must be a continual *status* of the social sea; a deep roar and a sullen dash of waves never destined to be lulled into quietness.

It must then be borne in mind, that the States are necessarily and continually full of parties, and further divided into some three or four principal bands of Presidential partisans; that, besides these openly avowed prepossessions and prejudices, others subordinate and comparatively private, muster an enormous strength; that, although new divisions are constantly manifesting themselves, the old ones are not forgotten, and may always be revived on occasion; and that there is a religious as well as a political world in America, which is almost equally open to the influence of the prevailing exciting elements of the country and of the time. Personal observation alone,—a very different thing from the Johnny Gilpin races, which, with nine-tenths of your pell-mell travellers, suffices to solve the enigma,—is wanting to make this clear. The traveller, too, must be especially careful that he is not misled by what he may hear said, or see written. I do not consider even the English press itself, from which we have learned so many lessons, a rival in some respects to our own. Look at an American paper on the eve of an election. See how parties speak of each other; how individuals are dragged forth out of privacy; how candidates for office, especially, are all but deified on the one hand, and devilled on the other. No matter who is the victim, the only question is, how he shall be carried through, or kept out; what can be devised for or against him; how shall a vote be lost or won. Should the unhappy pilgrim, in spite of attacks and abuse, and of all the bones, too, of his predecessors bestrewn the hazardous and ghastly path, arrive at last, like the hero of the Arabian tale, at the top of the hill of the singing-tree, let him not think himself at ease. Let him not flatter himself that anybody else is so. His term of office, even in the Presidency, is only four years; and this is but just time enough to fight the battle for the next election. When they lately opened on Mr. Van Buren, what foreigner could have supposed, from the tenor of the American press, that the republic was safe for a single hour? Who would have believed that it was safe under Jackson? The language in which the personal character and the political administration of that great man was discussed daily for at least eight years,—and a great man I, though one of his humble opponents, am ready to admit him to be,—that language, in most other countries, nay, in ours, too, would have been considered rough usage towards a condemned felon. His friends and followers, of course, were only the more exasperated, and became quite as absurd in their extravagant praise of the old gentleman; like him who mounted his charger with such a zeal, as to get on the under

For the upper
Side, for want of a crupper.

It might have been quietly admitted, that the General had been a wild youth. Many great men have been so before him. Some notorious escapades, too, which however I shall not here drag forward, might have been allowed to pass without comment; but no, not only were they flatly and stoutly denied, but all and every doubt, even as to special qualification, were so too: so was every political miscalculation and mistake, and even the possibility of either. With his own faithful, Jackson was infallible. He was a Pope—a Grand Lama. He not only never did err, but could not err. Some of the Dutchmen, in Pennsylvania, are said to have been made to believe that the "old Roman" paid off the national debt out of his own pocket! And then stories were got up about attempts to assassinate him, because a certain Virginian lieutenant, who thought himself wronged, undertook to right himself, by the rather republican liberty of pulling the President's nose. In a word, a stranger reading our newspapers would suppose that the whole population of the Union were ripe for revolution,—that the Americans were restless, thoughtless, reckless, desperate,—instead of being the mercantile, the marine, the agricultural, the universally money-making and business-driving people, which everybody who knows anything about them allows them to be.

I need not say that Mr. Van Buren has had his share of the purgatory, through which all Americans pass into the paradise of office. He who has decided, even to his own satisfaction, what manner of man the above-mentioned functionary is, from the papers of the States, is wise indeed in his generation. It is more than anybody else has been able to do. It is only known that he is a man of ability, and that he is President. Rank does not infallibly imply talent all over the world; but in America, at least in this case, it certainly does. It may not be the greatest; and far less need it be universal; but enough it must be to make a man a respectable national candidate for a place, which such characters as Washington and Jefferson have occupied; and if to this be added that managing tact which, though not genius, is akin to it,—a talent, in Bacon's phrase, for the "marshalling of affairs,"—I must acknowledge it will be found among us at present extremely serviceable. Modest merit is a pretty thing to talk of, but a wise wariness is a better property to own. This Van Buren has. His bitterest opponents admit this. They acknowledge his politic, gentlemanly, intangible, management; but as no more than the stealthy foot-fall and vigilant circumspection of a political grimalkin. It is, however, better than this; and his success, especially against an opposition so full of talent, is a proof of it, which they ought themselves to be eager to admit. The President has been renowned for it since the commencement of his public life. Hence his *sobriquet* of the "Arch Magician." This reputation, alone, was enough to secure his election. It palsied the opposition, as did the military renown, and still more the notorious, undisputed, and never-wavering self-confidence and stern determination, of Jackson. Different from each other as these two men are, they succeeded mainly by similar means. Merits they had,—each great talents of a certain kind. Services had been rendered by both. But the over-balancing qualification was an ability to strike a panic into their enemies' ranks. It was a renown, which made it sufficient for them to show themselves in the field, and to triumph without firing a gun. Jackson was a sort of political Napoleon in his way; a man of destiny among parties; and so is Van Buren. The former occupied the chair of the Union as long as it pleased him; and his successor is likely to do the same. His opponents may struggle and flounder under him, but it is only like poor Sindbad and the Man of the Sea. It is a doomed thing.

And now for Webster, who was one of the beaten candidates at the late election; having received, indeed, only the fourteen electoral votes of Massachusetts, his own State, out of between two and three hundred.

Webster, unlike Van Buren, was *not* the man to succeed; and I fear that he is not. I do not forget that I have called him a great man; and that I have even said he was considered, more than any other, the greatest man of the States. His op-

ponents, in all their severity, admit those splendid talents, the indestructible evidences of which, indeed, are not to be concealed; for again, unlike Van Buren, who stands at the head of all "non-committal" politicians, no man living has more magnanimously offered himself to be weighed in the balance of great emergencies, and in the sight of all eyes. He is as remarkable for the readiness with which he has taken hold of great, critical, and testing cases,—crises, even, some of them have been,—as for the extraordinary dignity, both personal and political, which has as uniformly kept him aloof from all petty and pettifogging party politics. Van Buren and Webster are the antipodes of each other; but in nothing do they differ more than in this. It may almost be said, without exaggeration, that the one has laboured as strenuously for thirty years to give the political public in America an opportunity to know him fairly, as the other has to keep himself unknown. Webster has been always at his post; and where fighting was to be, he was looked for in the brunt of the battle, and there found. On almost all great constitutional and governmental questions, he has not only appeared, but so shown himself, that he could never afterwards disappear. His speeches on the Tariff, the old Bank and the late one, the War of 1812, the policy of Internal Improvement, and most other questions of national importance abroad and at home, are each upon record; set forth, in broad daylight, for his countrymen and for posterity. So are many of his distinguished legal arguments, involving high matter of debate. So are his occasional orations, and other more strictly literary and intellectual exercises, for which, on great occasions, and for those alone, he has always been ready. The result is, that he is known,—not that he is in office. He is known too well to be there. He has too often, in his frank way, said or done unpopular things,—unpopular with some party or other; and as he has, first or last, trenched on the grounds of all, the case has become desperate. Especially, it is not to be forgotten, that some thirty years ago, he was a "Federalist," and that this party was supposed to uphold with a strong hand the national authority in the constitution and in the administration, against that of particular States. At all events, he has laid himself open to attack, while his successful opponent has not only kept himself cased in the mail of silence, but snugly ensconced for the most part in some mere observatory, watching the shifting fortunes of battle, and marshalling the ranks of his followers, but never himself within reach of a blow. How, then, could there be a fair fight?

Webster—or rather his friends, for he never troubled himself much about it,—fought against a rival, who, when he was likely to receive a home thrust, vanished into thin air; who, in fact, overcame all opposition by not fighting at all. Webster, again, contended only for right and truth, and their triumph, and not for spoil. While Van Buren, with his wonderful talent for such things, has worked himself into one place after another, nobody knows how,—lost sight of sometimes, like a subterranean torrent, but always winding his way in the dark, and coming out at the right place after all,—Webster has been all the while in the public eye, as fixed as a statue on a pedestal, and, as far as his own immediate interest was concerned, not much more active. It is not a bad incidental illustration of the difference between the two, that starting and ending in the same professions, law and politics, and certainly with no superior legal abilities on the part of Van Buren,—or with no reputation for it, which amounts to the same thing,—the latter has contrived to accumulate a princely fortune, while Webster has contrived to spend two or three. He is, indeed, proverbially negligent of all selfish considerations; careless, it must be admitted, to a fault. It has been even argued against him, that a man could not be a safe guardian of the public interest, who was notoriously so forgetful of his own. Such is the reward of patriotism in our day!

The admirers of Webster console themselves for his discomfiture in a way which, perhaps, includes the philosophy of the whole matter, though it cannot be considered very flattering to their countrymen or their republican feelings. Their doctrine is, that Webster is too great a man to succeed. There is some truth in this. There is a dignity about him

which belongs essentially to true greatness; a dignity of mind, manners, character, and purpose; a stern high-mindedness, willing only to move straight-forward, and engrossed in better things and thoughts than are consistent with the policy which is now indispensable to success. There is no policy at all in such a character—it loses all opportunities—it disdains to conciliate—it has an instinctive horror of the sordid rush of competition—it exposes itself to the world—it subjects itself to attacks which it will not deign to notice—it works, in a word, as greatness always has done, for a public, a country, a cause, it may be for the world,—for every thing but self. How can a man get into office, who does not work for the office, but for the world?

The style of Webster's oratory is such as might be inferred from what has been said of his general character. It is a great mind's simplest expression of its thoughts so far as the language is concerned; a mind taking hold of momentous subjects, with a deep sense of their importance, and with a capacity and a determination to understand them and to make them understood. Of everything like ostentation there is a scorn that is perfectly stoical, and this too where the temptation seems almost irresistible. No learning that might be omitted—no circumlocutory mode of expressing what could be expressed briefly and pointedly—no flourishes in the way of compliments—no flourishes of any sort, but onward, and right on, he hews a way into his subject and through it; proving by the impression he leaves upon every mind, that this subject, however difficult, is thoroughly possessed by himself, and that he aims only at making it completely understood by his audience.

Something more, however, is wanted in the forum. A writer derives no advantage from physical circumstances, but the orator does. There are such things as person, voice, countenance, and action, which must essentially modify the influence of the speaker over others. Demosthenes could do nothing till he cured his impediment; and a squeaking treble would murder the finest production of human genius. There is wanted, in fact, a physique corresponding to the intellectual; one that not only will not disparage the latter, but minister to its will. In this respect Mr. Webster is extraordinarily endowed. There is the fine, well-proportioned, powerful-looking frame—the broad chest—the ample forehead—the overhanging eyebrows—and the deep-set piercing black eye, with that strong but yet melodious voice, which all who hear its tones at once feel to be in unison with such a countenance and form. These physical advantages to one who has the dignity not to pervert them to mean uses, and the mind, at the same time, to employ them worthily, cannot fail to be of the highest importance. Mr. Webster adapts himself to the size of the senate house, and to the calmness of its usual debates, with all the quietness of a polished gentleman in a private drawing-room. On such occasions, though his head would at once attract a stranger's attention, he certainly might both be seen and heard without a suspicion of his real power. He is not often excited to such a degree as to put it forth. He does not suffer himself to be easily roused. But let the occasion be such as to call him out, and great as it may be, you find him equal to it, alike in matter and in style: the frame is erect and full; the chest heaves with excitement; a glow passes over the countenance; the eyes flash; the voice pours itself out in terrible volumes; the whole man is transformed. These occasions do not often come; but for that very reason they are never forgotten when they do. No man in America can be compared with Webster in the irresistible power of these rare expressions of his highest excitement. They have not occurred more than two or three times in the American senate; but you will not meet with the person who has witnessed them with indifference.

One of these cases happened on the last night of the session of 1835. At that time, while the House of Representatives sustained the administration by a large majority, the Senate still held out firmly, and with an ability on the opposition side which has never been rivalled, and probably never will be surpassed, in the States. Clay, Calhoun, and Preston, who are members now, were so then; with other able men, who have since retired from the senate. Business had been delayed during that session till a crowd of highly important matters had accumulated

at the close. Among these the Appropriation Bill, which had lain still in the House a week or two, with a clause for making certain preparations against the French war, then by many thought to be impending, and, as the opposition contended, brought on by the recklessness of the President. Late in the last evening, when every senator was in his seat, and all engrossed with public business, this bill was returned abruptly from the House with a provision added for leaving three millions of dollars at the President's disposal. The Senate was taken by surprise. Some members were disposed to yield at once; the administration party of course. Some who would have resisted a large discretionary grant like this on ordinary occasions, were still willing under the circumstances, and at so late an hour, to leave it unopposed. Others feared the danger of being charged by the public with a factious opposition to prevent a just preparation for defence. But Webster was none of these. Comprehending the whole constitutional length and breadth of the question at a glance, and detecting its supposed policy as a political measure with equal readiness, he met the crisis without hesitation, and with a crushing power of condensed argument produced an instantaneous rejection of the bill by the whole opposition to a man—all the ordinary "fence-men" included—and with the extraordinary addition of one of the leading members from the other side. The bill went to the House again, and was again sent back to the Senate, near midnight, without alteration! This was scarcely expected, but this time it did not take them by surprise. Webster rose on its announcement, with an expression in his countenance not to be affected by any man. One of his friends saw this, and would have restrained him; but he was roused: "No, sir, I have something to say, and I will speak." And speak he did. Nothing which rivals that burst of eloquence has ever been heard in the walls of the Senate. All men acknowledged its terrible power. It was not reported, and cannot be referred to now. No reporters were present, and they could not have reported it if they had been. The looks, tones, gestures, all were beyond the pen's ability to record. It was one of those extraordinary efforts of a giant mind, deeply excited by considerations of the highest moment, which in their nature can happen but rarely, and which, because they do so, disable an auditor from doing justice in any attempt to describe them.

Out of the Senate and out of his profession, which he has never entirely relinquished, the calls made upon Mr. Webster have been frequent, and responded to with the prodigal liberality characteristic of great minds. One of his most splendid efforts on record was made soon after his removal from New Hampshire, the State of his birth, to Boston. This was an oration delivered in 1820, before a society at the somewhat famous little place which in New England is called Old Plymouth, on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers. It was a ceremony of the deepest American interest, and it called together a vast assembly of persons from every quarter of the Union. Much was expected from the orator who spoke on such a spot, with such a theme; and Webster did not disappoint them. It was one of the great occasions which his mind revels in; and his printed discourse will be found to bear comparison with the productions of genius in any age.

Another of his epochs was a eulogy delivered before the Bostonians, on the characters of Jefferson and Adams—an occasion interesting to Americans in itself, but whose interest was enhanced by the circumstance that these two great patriots—one of them the writer of our Declaration of Independence, in the old Congress, and the other its ablest supporter in that House,—successively Presidents also of the Union,—and each, after going through a series of services and adventures almost unprecedented in history, living on together to a most extraordinary age, were reserved by Providence at last to die also together, and that upon the fiftieth anniversary of that Declaration, the great jubilee of the American people of the present age. Here again the power of the orator was severely tested, and it bore the trial.

This was in 1826. Not many months before, Mr. Webster had come forward on another interesting public commemoration. This was the visit of La-

fayette, during his triumphal progress, as it truly deserves to be called, through the whole extent of the Union. That visit itself was calculated to excite the liveliest enthusiasm, especially in the population (as generally educated and intelligent, I hope to be excused for believing, as any community in Christendom), of a city which boasts, as Boston does, of preserving, in "Old Faneuil Hall," the cradle of the Revolution, and of having aided the cause by its publications, and especially by the eloquence of the Otises, the Quincys, the Adamases, the Hancock, and the Warrens of those stirring days, destined to be called, as it was by a noble lord in Parliament, "the head-quarters of all riots (meaning resistance to tyranny) in America." The population of the surrounding country, also, far and near, as their fathers had aided and abetted the riotous metropolitans in their bold schemes of independence, and had rallied under arms together in Concord's blood-stained pastures, and upon the green ramparts of Dorchester Hills,—how could this generation of the children and grandchildren of those glorious old rebels help feeling the spirit of other days revive in them on an occasion like this? The *entrée* of the great and good Frenchman was, in fact, a new tocin. The news of his arrival went through the towns of Massachusetts as the news of the "Tea party" had done of yore; and it evoked all but the dead out of their graves. The people turned out, as they had done on the memorable morn of the 19th of April, 1775—*en masse*—man, woman, and child; and thousands upon thousands flocked into Boston.

In this city, the presence of the "nation's guest" was happily taken advantage of, for laying, with great state, the foundation of a monument long contemplated on the summit of the celebrated Bunker Hill—a monument to the memory of that brave band of freemen whose stubborn gallantry undisciplined as the most of them were, none could be more ready to acknowledge or admire than the twice-defeated but never-daunted English phalanx, led on by first-rate warriors, who yet found it so difficult and costly an enterprise to drive the rusty muskets and leathern aprons from the hill. Ah! well they might—Greek then met Greek. The royal soldiers were dipping their fingers in blood as warm, as generous, as *English*, as ever warmed a human frame. It was the blood of Britain's sons, struggling for that liberty which their Saxon hearts taught them never to surrender.

Well; Lafayette, of course, must lay the foundation stone. He was the adopted son of Washington; he was the only surviving general of the Revolution; he was the same old man, now grey with years and hard service in freedom's cause, who, in his early youth, had left fortune, rank, the royal favour, the delights of country, kindred, home, "to plunge into the dust and blood of the inauspicious struggle" of a people who were too poor to furnish him even the means of transport to their shores. If ever a case appealed to the heart of a people, it was this. And, oh! what a response was made to that appeal! Never in America, nor on earth, can such a scene return. It is not to my present purpose, however, to describe it. The 17th of June, 1823, was selected for the sadly-glorious commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the battle,—that battle!—comparatively trifling in itself,—but, for its character, for its effect especially, the one great conflict of the age! It was a splendid day: the air balmy; the sky cloudless; the whole of that beautiful region which surrounds Boston wearing the air of a garden filled with bloom. On the summit of the hill an amphitheatre was erected for the accommodation of a part of the audience. The surviving veterans of the day mustered there in strong force, never to be mustered again,—for, on the last anniversary celebration (1836) only some poor thirteen of the number could be found; and—

An army now might thunder past,
And they not heed its roar.

There they were, however, all grim and grey, and the same chaplain who had prayed for the blessing of Heaven on his country's cause on the morn of the Revolution, was present, at this close of the first half century of its freedom, to declare his gratitude and theirs.

Such was the scene of Webster's appearance. Such are the occasions on which he has always been

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summoned, and from which he has never flinched. More than 20,000 persons are supposed to have been on this occasion within the sound of his voice; a vast multitude certainly, but bearing no comparison to those by whom this masterly performance has since been read; and who, with one consent, have pronounced it, as well in the appropriate grandeur of its sentiments and the sublime simplicity of its style, worthy alike of the orator and of his theme. "Fortunate man," he called the Champion of Liberty, when, as he addressed him, the whole of that more than Olympian concourse rose as with the will of a single person, and listened to his words. Fortunate man, indeed! but now scarcely less honoured himself, to have been chosen as the organ of such a community, for such a purpose, and to have succeeded in his high duty.

It is occasions like these, as well as his daily labours in the Senate and at the bar, which have established the fame of Webster. He has not hesitated to submit such orations to the public, and they are open to the scrutiny of all. I can imagine, that to many the style may seem too sternly intellectual: stoical almost, in its straightforward scornful directness and simplicity. It is true that he deals with his hearer, or his reader, somewhat hardly in this respect. He holds him to his work so well, that if he dislikes thinking continuously on a great question, or has but a poor desire to perfectly comprehend such a subject, he may get weary of Webster, for it is ten to one he is not left for a moment with any indulgence of his fancy, or any recreation of his passions. On, and right on, he will have to go, till the great argument is concluded. Then, perhaps, he may have some small recompense for his toil, if toil it has been to understand what is worth understanding. He may always be sure, however, that if the matter in hand is really such as to call for passion or feeling, they will come: but generally, Webster's dignity in this respect—his apathy, if you please—in quite Indian, and may be thought to give some warrant to the fantasy, (suggested by a complexion which is certainly rare in the latitude he belongs to,) that some portion of the blood of that people has been mingled with his own. It is indeed an Outalissian oratory: he is "a man without a tear." This is in a great degree constitutional with him, but perhaps not altogether, and I might have alluded beforehand to those circumstances of his education, which rather indicate that a part of this hardihood, so to call it, may be considered a matter of habit. He was born in a small farming village, in the forest region of New Hampshire, the northern boundary of the Union, and was the son of a hard-handed and strong-minded early settler in the woods, who eked out a rather scanty living, by keeping a tavern, at the door of which Daniel is remembered to have made his first appearance in the capacity of ostler, with a measure of oats in hand, and a straw hat on his head, that was none the better for wear. The old man was uneducated, but he knew the worth of education by the want of it, and he mortgaged his farm to send his two boys to school, and to college: the younger of them, not many years since, after reaching the highest reputation at the bar of the State, fell dead in court, while engaged in pleading a cause. The great statesman has probably never lost the wild flavour of this rough rural discipline. It has given him a stern, hardy, laborious taste; with an apparent forgetfulness of the mere luxuries and graces of literature, and of his own art as an orator; but the contrary is well known to his intimate friends, and now and then indeed disclosed by small glimpses to the public. Such a mistake, indeed, is this, that when a fitting occasion does occur, he pours out such a flood of all the gay and graceful elegancies of a brilliant education, as might well make one believe, who knew him only then, that nothing but poetry and sparkling humour was congenial to his taste. The truth is, that he has a taste for these, for he has a universal sympathy with all that is beautiful. He has passions, especially, of deep volume, and prodigious power; and to these he adds an imagination which, when the emergency truly demanded it, has never been found deficient. But the secret is—and this is the secret of his greatness—that he possesses these, and is not possessed by them. He has the power of controlling them completely to his will; the power of a great and noble mind, engrossed with worthy

themes, and informed with a high, dignified, far-seeing, and determined spirit. This intellect has been disciplined not by education merely, in the usual sense of the word, but by what it suffered before getting and in getting it; by the education, in other words, of external circumstances. Mr. Webster is a noble specimen of a self-educated man. Some facilities have been furnished him, but circumstances and his own spirit have concurrently impelled him to husband, select, and digest them, as only the good appetite, and the hard labour of what is called adversity, and the thirst of a fine intellect yet unsupplied, can enable a man or a boy to appreciate the means of education. Thus, what has been taught him, what he has heard and read, his book education, has entered deep into his soul, and become, like good food, a portion of the flesh and blood of his system; coveted, understood, and used; and meanwhile, mingling always with his fellow men, and compelled to great exertions, he has accomplished by a gradual and natural process the great end of all discipline—the development of himself. Facilities indeed! they may be called so; but what would most men have made of such? What have they made? Nothing. The world is full of facilities thrown away, unappreciated, unapplied. It is only a great man that either can use them as they ought to be used, or can do without them: mind, like Webster's, infinite in resources, cannot be left on so desolate an island of poverty, as to find itself disabled or discouraged. It will create what is wanting. It will make the best of what is. But, above all, wherever it is, and whatever may be the abundance which surrounds it, whatever the temptation to a luxurious or a passive existence, in the world of education, it will not suffer itself to be overlaid with its facilities. It will not sit still, to be crowned with an education which, after all, though glittering, is only external. Its own action is its great aim. It must be developed, disciplined, inured. It must be able at all times, and at a moment's notice, to work, to suffer, to indulge itself, to abstain. It must be, in a word, master of itself.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Alexandria, Oct.

"Water and weather make men happy."

Persian Ambassador.

I could scarcely set out on my intended journey among the wandering tribes of Sem, with a more appropriate motto than those words by which Hussein Khan summed up his exposition of human happiness in Persia. You have seen this Eastern envoy in London. In the French steamer where I met him, he was as silent and as stately as possible, and passed many days without opening his lips. One evening, however, a disputed point in a game of chess made him communicative, and he told us many wonders about feats of arms and rare jewels. He next talked of men and manners. In his opinion, there are only three great men in Europe, viz. Prince Metternich, the Duke of Wellington, and the King of the French. Lord Palmerston is "not very much wise;" and Providence is sometimes wrong, in order that his Lordship may be right. You see, that discontented Eastern statesmen know how to construe a hard sentence just as well as a Western newspaper.

We left his Persian Excellency at Syra, and were soon safely anchored in the port of Alexandria, than which, few can present a more noble collection of floating fortresses. It is hard to tread with indifference on the site of this ancient city, which, with Rome and some few others, has preserved its name unchanged from the remotest antiquity. This little spot of land, between the Nile and the Desert, is still the brightest remnant of the master-mind who founded its walls, and brought the hundred arms of commerce to give life to its harbour. Alexandria has grown illustrious by the schools of its philosophers, and the visits of its astronomers: it has been hallowed, too, by the pen of Fathers, and the blood of holy martyrs. How different in its modern garb! The ancients built round the old harbour—that genuine centre of a commercial city; the moderns throng to a narrow neck of land, where the soil is barren, and breathes unknown and noxious vapours, revealed at intervals by the Plague. This is not the grand city of Ptolemy and Cleopatra, watered with fountains loaded with the fragrance of India, and

whose citizens were perfumed with spices, even in their last cold and narrow abode. Then, as in her present day, Alexandria was seated near the salt lake Maotis, and not far from the banks of the Nile, so unhealthy after its overflows; but the science of preserving the health of a city was then better understood.

I have this day rambled through that part of the town where upwards of 130,000 Mussulmen are gathered in low and scanty dwellings. My Arab guide cautioned me not to go through the market, for the sailors of *Stamboul* had flocked there in large numbers, and the turbaned Fellahs dared not resent their insults. We, however, stopped at the slave-market: there were upwards of one hundred human beings on sale, mostly young females. Some few came from Darfour, many from Djebel Nouba and Kordofan. I stopped amidst the Galla slaves, and questioned each of them about their parents and country. Their answers excited a painful interest; for, as they told me how they were named by their mothers, these little children would look sideways, ashamed to speak of their homes and families before rude, unfeeling strangers. I repeatedly asked them—"Where is your country?"—"Limmon, the land of many waters"—"Nono, the happy land"—"Horro, seven days' journey beyond Basso, in Gojam"—"Touloma, which no white man ever saw." These were their answers; and, as the slave-dealers passed closer, they would drop their heads, as if their masters could understand the language of the Gallas. Two little girls sat apart: their fingers were dyed with khennay, their eyes tinged with antimony, and their hair plaited according to the Ethiopian fashion. To all my questions, they answered by that dignified and scornful silence which I had so often remarked among the little Gallas. I was near giving up my inquiries, when I thought of repeating the first words of an Ilmorog song, well known by the unfortunate slaves:—

I am a little unweaned calf,

Why have you sold me?

I am a little child, walking on hands and knees,

Why have you sold me? &c.

On hearing her native ditty, one of the little girls hid her head in her companion's lap, saying—"I know it, my country is Nono." Though Galla children seldom or never cry, I could see that I had re-opened a wound half healed, and I hastened away from the little slave girl.

ANTHONY D'ABBADIE.

MUSICAL FESTIVAL AT BRUNSWICK.

[Since our last publication, the missing letter, alluded to in a note, has arrived. As the commencement of the series of Notices of Music in North Germany, we have thought it best to give it in its original form, though out of date and place.]

Brunswick, September 9, 1830.

No one, be he ever so experienced, who has given himself up to the spirit of the time, will be, for a good week, cool enough to offer anything like a sober analysis of the Musical Festival now just over. In my eyes, too, it has had every advantage which could enhance a new pleasure, the weather has been brilliant; the *locale* most engaging: how much so, those alone can understand who have posted for a day and night through the doleful wastes of Hanover—barren—unpeopled—and where the one solitary sign of the schoolmaster abroad manifests itself in the infinity of recently-planted birch-trees which fringe the road between Haaburg and Celle. I am charmed with Brunswick: there is an air of comfort and cheerfulness in its narrow winding streets, spreading into polygonal *places*, adorned with richly-foliaged trees,—a rich antiquity in certain of its buildings, as, for instance, the Rathhaus, and the Cloth Hall, with the quaint and fantastic fountain, their neighbour,—to say nothing of the Cathedral, where Caroline of England lies buried, with its Byzantine altarpiece and candelabrum, of the same date as the stiff bronze Lion in the *place* without. Then, among its modern attractions, Brunswick possesses a rich and tasteful new palace scarcely finished, which puts our own Pimlico monstrosity to shame, and does all honour to its architect, Herr Ottmer, who also built the Sing-Academie at Berlin. Add to this, that an unusual share of beauty looks out at the shop-doors of Brunswick, and drives up and down the streets in equipages, somewhat farcical, I own,—that there is an all-pervading air of good-nature and friendliness,

an absence of formality in social intercourse, including even such a very bird of passage as your correspondent,—and you will admit that a tolerably sufficient list of materials for three days' pleasure is made out before the chief attraction is reached,—the musical performances in the Egidien Kirche and the Medicinisches Garten; and, what has been scarcely less notable and interesting, the apotheosis of Mendelssohn, who came hither from Leipsic, to conduct his own oratorio of 'St. Paul,' the strong point of the meeting.

To begin with the beginning: you must imagine the voluntary association of all the musical inhabitants of the place, assisted by friends from Hanover, &c.—you must fancy young ladies of the first family not disdaining to sing the same notes, or to wear the same pretty uniform as the chorus-singers from the Opera House, while their fathers and brothers took as easy and friendly a part with their less distinguished townsmen. The fruit of this was a heart in their singing, and, at the same time, a refinement, which I have never heard at home, in any orchestra, whether amateur or professional. The numbers of hand and chorus mustered about 500,—the solo vocal parts were taken by an amateur *contralto*, Madame Fischer Achten, Herr Schmetzer, and Herr Fischer, the three last belonging to the Court theatre, and two of them among the best singers now in Germany. The Egidien Kirche is a fragment of a fine Gothic building, which, I suspect, has suffered in the wars,—not very good for musical purposes, from its extreme height. But the ultra-vibration thus caused was counteracted in the most satisfactory manner—namely, by the presence of an immense audience. The church was filled on Friday morning, soon after nine o'clock, by an auditory, like the orchestra, made up of all classes, from the Duke downwards to his humblest subjects, the women still wearing the national black scull-cap, with its long pendant loops of broad ribbon; gentle and simple, all alike good-humoured, accommodating, interested in what was going on, not merely in the music, but in the master. Every day was marked by some new honour and compliment publicly paid to Mendelssohn, beginning with the rich garland of autumn flowers wreathed round his conductor's desk; and these were too intimately a part of the "celebrity" to be passed over in its record.

'St. Paul,' as a whole, went excellently well. Three features in its performance were novelties to me: one,—the absence of an organ in the choruses to support and to blend together the vocal parts,—was a great loss. But it was almost compensation for this, to be relieved from the offensive male counter-tenor voices, which no tradition or authority will ever make endurable to me in English part-singing. The low female voices, which supplied their places, were sufficiently audible and emphatic, and gave that mellowness of effect to the quartet, for which I had long listened in vain. It was another agreeable novelty to hear the whole oratorio executed without one solitary change, cadence, or ornament on the part of any singer. To be sure, the music of 'St. Paul' lies singularly above the reach of embroiderers. Yet, while recognizing the superior purity of German vocalists, and further declaring that Madame Fischer Achten and Herr Schmetzer sang very well (the latter being much improved since he figured for a few weeks as the Romeo—a most Dutch-built one!—of a German operatic company in London), I am bound also to say that, compared with our own Phillips, Herr Fischer, in the part of Paul, was dry, tuneless, and unimpressive; while the lady who sung that beautiful *Arioso*, 'But the Lord is mindful of his own,' was yet more strikingly inferior in style and sentiment to Mrs. A. Shaw. If we could only persuade our singers to respect their author as much as their own favourite airs and graces, we need not, in that chapter, have any fears of German supremacy!

'St. Paul' was over about one o'clock, and, by this time, the audience (who had, nevertheless, by no means fasted while their ears were feasting) began to think of dinner. The town became all alive; the ladies, in full evening dress, walking and driving about in the bright sunshine, and many eagerly streaming towards the *Medicinisches Garten*, to secure places at the dinner table, formed a show as pretty as it was un-English. As the public banquet given to Mendelssohn was to be a special solemnity, we did

not sit down till three. The place where it was held—a sort of *Ridotto*, in the Brunswick Vauxhall—was gaily decorated with garlands and transparencies, in which the composer's name was displayed. His picture, too, was at one end of the room, arranged shrine-wise, with candles before it; for, even at that early hour, the room was artificially lighted. Between three and four hundred persons—as many ladies as gentlemen, partook of that trying thing to English stomachs, a German dinner; and, while the courses made their slow round—in all of about three hours' duration—the composer's health was drunk with vociferous honours; speeches were made, mercifully shorter than the oratorical displays at the Freemason's Tavern, and sundry pieces of music sung: the first, an ode of thanks and welcome, addressed to the hero of the day, copies of which were handed about. Anything like the uproar at the close of the feast, I never heard: a mixture of shouts for "Eis," (ice), an artillery of champagne corks exploding, and ovations to the principal singers of the morning, the whole harmonized by a plenteous emission of tobacco smoke. But the whole orgy was closed about half-past six; and by nine o'clock in the evening, everything seemed quiet and asleep in the town.

The second day's performance, in the Egidien Kirche, was less interesting. Its programme comprised a psalm, by Schneider, of no very exalted merit; the 'Hallelujah' of the Messiah, in which breadth of style seemed, to me, wanting; Weber's 'Jubilee' overture; a solo on the violin, well played by Herr Müller (the head of the famous Brunswick quartet); another on the clarinet, as well executed by Herr Tretbar; and Beethoven's c minor Symphony. This was capitally played, because capitally conducted; and, in recognition of the latter merit, at its close, another "honour" was rendered to Mendelssohn, in the form of a *feu de joie* of bouquets, which the chorus, by preconcerted signal, directed against him. But this was a trifle compared with what took place in the evening, at the hall, held in the Court theatre, with a spacious range of saloons attached, for refreshment and supper. The stage and the pit were laid together for the dancers; but, on our first arrival, the curtain was down, as usual. On Mendelssohn's arrival, however, he was arrested, at the door, by two young ladies, who conducted him forwards, and, the curtain then rising, disclosed a temporary pavilion, erected at the extreme depth of the stage, under which the composer received the honours of coronation. I have purposely not dwelt upon the details of this, for I well know how *Della Cruscan* such recitals will appear to the English. I must insist, however, that, seen on its own proper ground, the keenest and most captious satirist could have found nothing but what was natural and becoming,—in appropriate correspondence with the tone of mingled earnestness and gaiety which distinguished this Festival from all others I have attended.—I have no room to describe Mendelssohn's morning concert, which closed the festivities, as I hope to have further opportunities of speaking of his pianoforte playing, which was its principal feature.

H. F. C.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

It is very pleasant to play the gossip when we can greet the public, like Cowper's post-boy, with
News from all nations lumbering at our back.

We have this week received letters from Mr. D'Abbadie, now at Alexandria on his route to Abyssinia—from our musical correspondent in Germany—Sketches of Character: American Statesmen, from our transatlantic correspondent—and we have other letters and matters of interest, some of which must be deferred, and others briefly noticed and dismissed. To begin with a subject of scientific importance. The Havre papers of the 31st ult., in announcing the return of the *Recherche* corvette from the north, add the following sketch of her voyage. The corvette, it will be remembered, left the port of Havre in June last—her first point being, the Faroe Isles, the astronomical position of which was fixed by the expedition. While at Thorshaven, the capital, geological and other researches were made: Thorshaven was left on the 1st of July.—on the 12th, the expedition arrived at Hammerfest, from whence, after some days' rest, it proceeded to Spitzbergen. The *Iale Cherie*, which last year was surrounded by an impassable barrier of ice, was visited; and the officers

availed themselves of the opportunity to determine its geographical position, and to make geological researches: the latter, however, were cut short by the inclemency of the weather, and the extreme difficulty of landing. From thence, the *Recherche* sailed for one of the northern ports of Spitzbergen. Contrary winds, snow, and mists, prevented the corvette reaching the 80th degree of latitude, and anchoring in Magdalena's Bay, before the 31st of July. From this point, parties visited the anchorage of Sméremberg, and Hakluyt's Head, the north-western extremity of Spitzbergen. In spite of the continual snow, a chart was drawn of Magdalena Bay, and that of Hambourg; and magnetical and meteorological observations were made on land four times in the hour, during ten successive days. Nothing could be more desolate than these latitudes. The few fishers who visit the coast were southward of the isle. More than two hundred tombs, however, attesting the visits of former navigators and whale-fishers, were discovered on one of the headlands of Magdalena Bay; and, besides these, the remains of several unburied bodies. On the 15th of August, the *Recherche* quitted Spitzbergen; and the expedition determined the geographical position of the principal points westward of the isle on its return to Hammerfest, which it reached on the 23rd. On the 29th, the members of the scientific commission quitted the *Recherche*, to return homeward through Lapland, while the vessel made her way back to France, touching at Berghen, Mandal, and Christiania.

A letter from Edhem Bey, the Minister of Public Instruction in Egypt, who received his education in Paris, and was recently in that capital on a mission from the Viceroy, gives some details of interest relative to the progress of instruction under his ministry. "The schools," he says, "are proceeding favourably. Hekekan Bey, the brother-in-law of Artym Bey, is busy about the organization and establishment of a school of arts and trades. At El-Khanke, a school, called the Princes' School, has been founded, where the sons of His Highness receive an education suited to their condition. The translation into Arabic of Legendre's Geometry has been completed, and it will be printed as speedily as possible. A translation of the Elements of Algebra has also been made and printed. In the translation of works having relation to the arts and sciences, it has been necessary for the expression of new ideas, or the naming of new objects, to form new words, by borrowing from those languages which have preceded us in the same paths. To avoid confusion, and simplify the labours of those who are occupied in such translations, I have thought, with Refah-Effendi, that it would be well to collect such technical words as have been already adopted, and to translate or adopt such others as are to be found in the French tongue,—forming the whole into a dictionary of technical words. Refah-Effendi, in conjunction with the Sheikhs, and other men of science who have undertaken translations, would be commissioned to this useful labour." The execution of this project has been commenced, at Paris, under the direction of the Head of the Egyptian mission, M. Jomard; who has furnished to Refah-Effendi and his colleagues, the plan of a General Technological Dictionary, indispensable alike to the task of instruction, and that of translation.

The Autumn catalogue of the Leipsic book-fair, announces this year 4,071 new works. If we subtract from this all pamphlets and fugitive productions, there still remains, it appears, a number more than three times as great as that of the published works twenty years ago. It is said that the northern and eastern parts of Germany are most fertile in theology, philosophy, and belles lettres,—the south and west in history, politics, and natural science. Six hundred and thirty-five works and pamphlets, exclusively devoted to the subject of theology, have come forth during the summer. Among these are, a new edition of the works of Luther, in twenty-eight volumes,—translations of those of Pascal—of 'Watson's Life of Wesley,' and several attempts to popularize the celebrated work of Strauss, for the benefit of the rising generation, and that sex for whose powers of digestion the original is presumed to be too hard and heavy food. In the department of philosophy, there appears to be an edition of the works of Kant, and a collection of the writings of Krug—in that of politics, only two works of much interest, and both anonymous: the one

entitled 'Germany and Russia,' appeared at Mannheim, and is intended to warn the Germans against Russian influence; the other 'The European Pentarchy,' was published at Leipzig, and has precisely a contrary object. Historical literature is very rich, though principally in works on German history. Besides these, are Ranke's 'Contributions from the Archives of Britain,' Arndt's 'History of Sweden,' Von Hammer's 'History of the Mongols, and Gallery of the Arabian Caliphs,' Strinholm's 'Expeditions of the Vikings of Ancient Scandinavia,' and Ustralon's 'History of Russia.' There are several works of interest on geography and natural science. Among the former the 'Travels of Prince Max von Neuwied,' in North America, 'Rüppell's Travels in Abyssinia,' (reviewed in our paper this day,) and Schubert's in the East. Homœopathy appears to be on the decline, but there are several works on Somnambulism and 'Geisterwesen.' The department of poetry and fiction presents little beside translations and collected works—and that of the drama is poorest of all. A rumour, which may be accepted by way of counterblast to the lamentations of a correspondent over the dearth of rising German musical composers, mentions the success, at Weimar, of an opera composed by Walter von Goethe, the grandson of the great poet—we may here advert, too, to the recent performance of 'Don Giovanni' at Munich, given in aid of the funds for Mozart's monument, and in the presence of his widow. Another breath of fame declares, that the power and possessions of the late Lady Hester Stanhope are about to fall into the hands of a personage no less distinguished than Prince Pückler Muskau himself. Coming homeward from Germany, we must notice the recent decease of Mr. Van Schamps, of Ghent, whose admirable gallery of pictures was so long a "lion" in that interesting city. It was said there that the collection would be immediately broken up and offered for sale—if so, we hope that "the powers that be" in England will not neglect the opportunity of judicious purchase.

Our accounts from Paris state, that the election of a member of the Académie Française, in the room of the late M. Michaud, will not take place earlier than next month. By some mistake, the Paris papers announced the nomination for the sitting of that body in the present week.

Two fragments of University intelligence are welcome, as signs of that reciprocity which must proceed from, or lead to, enlightenment; the first, however, reads oddly enough, being a *grace* which passed the Cambridge senate on the 2nd of this month, "to grant to the University of Athens, for their library, such of the books printed at the Pitt Press, on account of the University, as the Syndics may think proper to select;" the other is the appointment of Dr. Jerrard, of the London University, as an Examiner for the Tripos of Cambridge for the year 1840.

According to a statement in the *Educational Magazine*, the authorities of Guy's Hospital, anxious to provide for the medical students similar advantages to those possessed by young men at the universities, have it in contemplation to erect chambers, with dining-hall, buttry, and kitchen, attached to the immediate neighbourhood of the hospital; and it is calculated that such furnished apartments could be profitably let, at charges ranging, according to the accommodation, at from 10s. to 20s. a week; of course the whole arrangement of the internal economy to be under the control of the authorities of the hospital. The idea seems a good one, though it would be better, perhaps, to follow the custom of the universities, and let the apartments unfurnished, each incoming paying to the out-going tenant the value of the necessary furniture, according to an estimate to be given in to the authorities by an official appraiser. We submit this project to the Council of University College, as especially deserving consideration: they have a large and unsightly piece of waste ground, which might be judiciously appropriated to this purpose. The building, as designed by Mr. Wilkins, might thus be perfected at once; for we have little doubt, considering the value of property in that situation, that such arrangements could be entered into with capitalists, as would induce them to embark in the speculation,—a right of purchase, on equitable terms, being reserved to the Council.

It is difficult to keep pace with the musical and dramatic life of Paris. One *feuilleton* brings us flaming accounts of the success of M. Masset, the new tenor at the *Opéra Comique*, who is said to be a dangerous rival to Duprez; another, a promise of a new symphony with solos and choruses, by M. Berlioz, on the story of 'Romeo and Juliet,' a homage, it may be presumed, to Paganini; a third alludes to the success of M. Révial, another young French tenor singer, who went recently to Italy to study, and has already made a great impression upon the public at Milan; a fourth talks of a new dramatic, 'Miss Kelly,' in which our own incomparable *Betty Finikin* and *Annette*, figures as the heroine; a fifth, and last, chronicles M. Moscheles, at a *souïrée* at St. Cloud, where his pianoforte-playing and compositions, alternately with those of M. Chopin, were highly relished and applauded.

At home, meanwhile, though we can bring forward no parallels for our theatres or our palace, we are not altogether idle. Spohr, it is said, is writing, or has written, a new symphony, which is to be performed at the Philharmonic Concerts of next season. It gave us great pleasure to hear, a day or two since, as good evidence of the increasing taste for the best music in England, of the formation of regular quartett-concerts in Manchester and Birmingham; others were talked of for Liverpool, where subscription concerts on a grander scale are again established, with every promise of a large patronage.

To conclude for the week, we must announce the recent elections of Mr. P. Hardwick, as an Associate of the Royal Academy, and of Mr. Cockerell, to the Professorship of Architecture, in room of the late Mr. Wilkins.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

This Establishment will be CLOSED for the Season, on SATURDAY, the 26th instant.—The Pictures now exhibiting represent the CORONATION of HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, in Westminster Abbey, and the INTERIOR of the CHURCH of SANTA CROCE, at Florence, with all the effects of Light and Shade from Noon till Midnight. Both Paintings are by LE CHEVALIER BOUTON.—Open from Ten till Four.

ROYAL GALLERY OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE,

ANGLADE STREET, WEST STRAND.
The only Specimens of the Daguerotype in England, executed by M. Daguerre himself, are to be seen at this Institution. Admittance, 1s. extra. The Steam Gun, Microscope, Model of the Archimedes, Polarization of Light, New Pumps, &c.
Open Daily at Ten, A.M.—Admittance, 1s.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 6.—The first meeting for the session was held on Wednesday, the Rev. Prof. Buckland, D.D., President, in the chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. 'A Notice of Showers of Ashes, which fell on board the *Roxburgh*, off the Cape de Verd Islands, in February last,' by the Rev. W. B. Clarke.—On Tuesday, February 4th, the latitude of the ship at noon was 14° 31' N., longitude 25° 16' W. The sky was overcast, and the weather thick, and insufferably oppressive, though the thermometer was only 72°. At three P.M., the wind suddenly lulled into a calm, then rose from the S.W., accompanied by rain, and the air appeared to be filled with dust, which affected the eyes of the passengers and crew. At noon on the 5th of February, the latitude of the *Roxburgh* was 12° 36' N., longitude 24° 13' W.; the thermometer stood at 72°, and the barometer at 30"—the height which it had maintained during the voyage from England. The volcanic island of Fogo, one of the Cape de Verds, was about forty-five miles distant. The weather was clear and fine, but the sails were found to be covered with an impalpable, reddish brown powder, which, Mr. Clarke states, resembled many of the varieties of ashes ejected from Vesuvius, and evidently was not sand, blown from the African deserts. The author also mentions the following instances of similar phenomena, chiefly on the authority of the officers of the *Roxburgh*:—In June 1822, the ship *Kingston*, of Bristol, sailed to Jamaica, while passing near Fogo, had her sails covered with a similar brownish powder, which, it is said, smelt strongly of sulphur. In the latitude of the Canaries, and longitude 35° W., showers of ashes have been noticed two or three times. At Bombay, dust, on one occasion, fell on the decks of the vessels to the depth of an inch, and it was supposed to have been

blown from Arabia. In January, 1838, dust was noticed by the crew of a ship navigating the China Sea, and at a considerable distance from the Bashee Islands, one of which had been previously seen in eruption. In 1812, ashes fell on the deck of a packet bound to the Brazils, and when 1,000 miles from land.

2. A letter from Mr. Caldecleugh, dated Santiago de Chili, 18th of February, 1839, containing the declaration of the master and part of the crew of the Chilean brig *Thily*, of the discovery, during the evening of the 12th of February, of three volcanic islands, about thirty leagues to the east of Juan Fernandez. The island which was first noticed appeared, at the time of its discovery, to be rising out of the sea: it afterwards divided into two pyramids, which crumbled away, but their base remained above the level of a violent surge; and in the course of the same evening, the height of the island was, for a time, again considerably increased. The other two volcanic islets bore further southwards. During the night, the crew of the *Thily* noticed, at intervals, a light in the same direction.

3. 'A letter addressed to Mr. Lyell, by Mr. Buddle, of Newcastle, on depressions produced in the surface of the ground by the excavation of beds of coal.'

The effects described in this paper are stated to depend on the four following conditions:—1st. The depth of the seam of coal below the surface. 2nd. The thickness of the seam. 3rd. The nature of the strata between the seam of coal and the surface. 4th. Whether the pillars of coal are wholly or partially removed.

If the depth from the surface does not exceed thirty fathoms, and sandstone forms the greater part of the mass overlying the seam, the subsidence is nearly, if not quite, equal to the thickness of the coal removed; but if "metal-stone," or shale, constitute the bulk of the bed, the hollow produced by the settling of strata is less. This rule, depending on the nature of the intervening mass, is said to be maintained at all depths. Of the proportional effect produced in the surface, Mr. Buddle has not been able to obtain any accurate information, the amount depending on the four conditions enumerated above; but the depth of the depression depends less on the thickness of the seam than on its entire removal. In the Newcastle pits, where large pillars of coal are left, in the first instance, and when these are subsequently removed, blocks or "stooks," of considerable strength, are suffered to remain, for the purpose of protecting the colliers from the exfoliation of the roof, the sinking of the superincumbent mass is retarded, and several years sometimes elapse before the excavation is completely closed, or the overlying strata are finally settled down. In the Yorkshire system—by which all the coal, with the exception of small temporary pillars, is removed in the first instance, the roof being supported by wooden props and stone pillars—the overlying strata subside immediately after the coal is removed. It is only where water occurs on the surface, or a railway traverses a coal-field, that the amount of depression can be accurately ascertained. In one instance, the removal of a bed of coal six feet thick, one-fourth having been left in "stooks," the depth being 100 fathoms, and the overlying strata principally sandstone, a pond of water accumulated to the depth of rather more than three feet, by the settling of the strata. In another instance, where a railway crossed a district from beneath which three beds of coal had been successively removed, it had been found necessary to restore the level of the railway three times. The aggregate thickness of the seams of coal was nearly 15 feet, the depth of the lowest 107 fathoms, of the highest 73, and the mass of the overlying strata consisted of shale. The extent of each settlement was not measured, but the total was 5 feet 6 inches; and this comparatively small amount Mr. Buddle explains by the railway passing near one end of the excavated tract. A still higher seam is now in progress of being worked; and it affords an excellent opportunity for ascertaining the effects produced by the pressure of the superincumbent mass. Innumerable vertical cracks pass through the seam, as well as the pavement and roof, or the beds immediately above and below it; but they are perfectly close, except around the margin of the settlement. Along

this line, the seam is splintered, the pavement and roof are fissured and bent down, and the cracks are frequently open. Within the area of the settlement, the pavement, on the contrary, is as smooth as if it had not been disturbed, the cracks are close, and the coal is not splintered, but rendered tougher; or, in the language of the colliers, more "woody." This effect, Mr. Buddle ascribes to the escape of gas by the cracks; and the same changes are sometimes produced by other causes, when the coal is said to be winded.

4. 'On the relative Ages of the tertiary and post-tertiary deposits of the Basin of the Clyde,' by James Smith, Esq., of Jordan Hill.—In former communications, Mr. Smith shewed, that deposits in the basin of the Clyde had been elevated above the level of the sea during very recent geological epochs; and that some of these beds contain testacea, which indicate the prevalence, during the period of their accumulation, of a colder climate in Scotland than exists at present. In this paper, he confines his remarks to subsequent observations, which afford most satisfactory evidence that these comparatively modern deposits are divisible into two distinct formations, differing in their Fauna, and separated by a wide interval of time. In the older of these formations, Mr. Smith has found from ten to fifteen per cent. of extinct or unknown species of testacea; but in the newer, only such shells as inhabit the British seas. He accordingly places the former among the newest pliocene, or pleistocene, deposits of Mr. Lyell, and the latter among the post-tertiary series. Both of these accumulations he nevertheless considers to be older than the human period. In the lowest part of the pleistocene formation of the basin of the Clyde, Mr. Smith places the unstratified mass of clay and boulders, locally called "till"; and in the upper, which rests upon it, the beds of sand, gravel, and clay, containing marine shells, a portion of which are extinct or unknown. He is of opinion, that some of the similar accumulations in the basin of the Forth and the Tay will probably prove to be of the same age, as well as the elevated terraces of Glenroy, recently shown by Mr. Darwin to be of marine origin. He is also convinced, that a very great proportion of the superficial beds of sand, gravel, and clay, will be ascertained to be tertiary, although the absence of organic remains must render it difficult to obtain, on all occasions, satisfactory evidence. During the post-tertiary epoch, or while the beds containing only existing testacea were accumulated, changes of level in the basin of the Clyde must have taken place to the amount of forty feet; but during the human period no change appears to have occurred. The paper concludes with a list of the fossil shells obtained by Mr. Smith, and not found living in the British seas, or of doubtful existence in them. The number of the species is twenty-four—six of which occur in the crag of England, three in the most recent tertiary strata of Sweden, and seven in a living state in the North seas.

5. 'On the noxious gases emitted from the chalk and overlying strata in sinking wells near London,' by Dr. Mitchell.—The most abundant deleterious gas in the chalk is the carbonic acid; and it is said to occur in greater quantities in the lower than the upper division of the formation. The distribution of it, however, in that portion of the series is very unequal, it having been found to issue in considerable volumes from one stratum, while from those immediately above and beneath none was emitted. Sulphuretted hydrogen and carburetted hydrogen gases sometimes occur where the chalk is covered with sand, and London clay, as well as in other situations. In making the Thames Tunnel they have been both occasionally given out, and some inconvenience has been experienced by the workmen: but in no instance have the effects been fatal. In the districts where sulphuretted hydrogen gas occurs, the discharge increases considerably after long continued rain, the water forcing it out from the cavities in which it had accumulated. The paper contained several cases of well-diggers having been suffocated from not using proper precautions.

ASIATIC SOCIETY.

Nov. 2.—Prof. Wilson in the chair.—Capt. W. C. Manesty, Thomas Law Blanc, Esq., and Capt. Hine were elected Members.

General Briggs addressed the Meeting, on the subject of a paper which was read at the close of the last session, by Mr. W. Morley, announcing the discovery of a part of a work, the *Jami-al Tawarikh*, which had been for some centuries lost to the world. That was sufficiently curious, but he had now to announce a matter much more extraordinary, and, in fact, almost incredible, which was, that very recently, another portion of the same lost work had been found in London; and that the two portions found, although probably separated for centuries, had once actually formed the same individual volume. The way in which this was made out would appear in the paper he was about to read, and which was written by D. Forbes, Esq., Professor of Oriental Languages at King's College. The notices already given of the first portion discovered of this work (see *Athenæum*, No. 609), render it unnecessary to say more here of this second portion than to give the account of its discovery. Mr. Forbes in his paper stated, that in the course of his professional duties, he had visited a house in which was deposited a collection of Oriental MSS., which belonged to the late Colonel Baillie. One of these, a large Arabic MS., with many pictures, more especially took his attention. The title written upon it was the *Tarikh-i Tabari*; but, upon examination, he found that the work came down to a date much more recent than the time of Tabari; and he requested an intelligent native of India to look at it. This gentleman, who was the Vakeel of the Rajah of Sattarah, had, some time previously, been looking over the volume in the Library of the Society, before described, and he immediately declared that this was the very book he had been reading. This, it was evident, could not be the case, but the remark excited attention; the book in the Society's Library and the newly-found MS. were brought together and compared; and it was evident that the two parts formed one book. It appears, however, that the two portions united would not yet complete the volume; several deficiencies still remain, which, we fear, there is small hope of supplying. General Briggs congratulated Oriental scholars on the discovery of so large a portion of the lost work of *Reschid el-din*.

Prof. Wilson introduced to the meeting, J. Vigne, Esq., a gentleman who has just returned from a journey of seven years' duration, during which time he had passed through Cashmere, Great and Little Thibet, the Punjab, Cabul, and other regions, some of which had never been visited by any European, or at least had never been fully described. Mr. Vigne left England in 1822. He went to Persia, passed through Teheran, Mazanderan, and Bushire, from whence he sailed to Bombay. He afterwards went by Jamba and Rajawar to Cashmere, where he resided a considerable time, traversing the province in many directions, and crossing into Thibet by several passes, so that he has been able to prepare a complete map as far as the Indus, to the north. From Cashmere he crossed the table-land of Dessu to Iskardo, the capital of Baltistan, or Little Thibet, a town on the Indus, the position of which had hitherto been doubtful, and which, so far as we are aware, had not before been visited by an European. This town Mr. Vigne calls a wild and extraordinary place, and compares it to Gibraltar. The tradition of the inhabitants is, that they are descended from the Greeks who accompanied Alexander the Great; and that the name of Iskardo is derived from Alexander, called in the East, Iskander. From Baltistan, Mr. Vigne returned to India, through the mountains on the east of Cashmere, and visited several of the capitals of the Hill States in that part of the Himalaya Mountains. He then went to Ghizné, a place which recent events have made a subject of great interest; a drawing of that celebrated city was exhibited, and the spot where the attack of the British took place was pointed out. He then returned to Cabul, in the vicinity of which he made numerous excursions, and from thence travelled to Loodiani, early in the present year. From Loodiani, he sailed down the Indus, reached Bombay, and from Bombay came to England, by way of Egypt. A good deal of this journey, Prof. Wilson observed, was quite new, and that which had been before seen had been but imperfectly described. The Jesuits had written accounts of their journeys through parts of it; but their narrations were summary, and chiefly personal. Bernier was fuller and more interesting, but his objects were

less varied and extensive than those of travellers of the present day. Forster's accounts of Cashmere were valuable in the absence of any other, but his opportunities had been few and his sojourn short. The account of Moorcroft, who had resided ten months at the capital of Cashmere, was much fuller than any previous narration: it had been for some time ready for publication, but the delivery of it is delayed by want of the completion of the map which is to accompany it. Moorcroft's tour in Cashmere was also limited to the southern portion; and was besides undertaken twenty years ago; and great changes had since then taken place. The celebrated M. Jacquemont had also made Cashmere the scene of his investigations; but that part of his journal had not yet been published, and his inquiries, like Moorcroft's, were chiefly confined to the capital and the valley in which it is situate; while Mr. Vigne has had the advantage of visiting places which had been shut up by physical or political obstacles both to Moorcroft and Jacquemont. The country north-east of Cashmere is quite new ground, and the visit of Mr. Vigne to Iskardo cannot fail to be of very great interest. His observations in that quarter will add very materially to our knowledge of the geography of that lofty region, and to that of the course of the Indus, from the frontiers of Ladakh to its issue upon the plains of India. Professor Wilson finally observed that it was to be regretted Mr. Vigne had not been able to visit the district of Nobra, and to trace the course of the Shayuk, from its confluence with the Indus to its source. Mr. Vigne had, however, visited a good deal of the lower part of this northern branch, and had also accurately traced the main body of the river on the west of Iskardo, to where it turns to the south, and breaks through the mountain barrier which opposes on that side. The hill states of Chamba, and others on this quarter, had also been visited for the first time; and the knowledge thus obtained had enabled us to complete the geography of the upper part of the Punjab.

A most interesting display of drawings of places, persons, and scenery, made by Mr. Vigne, was laid upon the table; also various geological and zoological specimens collected by him.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—Nov. 1.—J. E. Gray, Esq., F.R.S., President, in the chair.—Specimens of *Myriophyllum alterniflorum*, a plant new to the British Flora) were exhibited, presented by the Rev. Andrew Bloxam, who discovered the plant at Tycroft, Leicestershire.—Mr. D. Cooper also exhibited the same plant, found by him on Wimbledon Common, Surrey.—A paper was read from Mrs. Riley, 'On the British genus *Cystea*.' The four British species are divided into two divisions: two of them have the fructification confluent, viz. *Cystea fragilis*, and *Cystea dentata*, and two with the sori remaining distinct, *Cystea angustata*, and *Cystea regia*. The *Cystea angustata* is the only one upon which the *Uredo filicum* had been observed.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SAT.	Westminster Medical Society	Eight, P.M.
MON.	Royal Academy (<i>Anat. Lect.</i>)	Nine.
	Geographical Society *	Nine.
TUES.	Zoological Society (<i>Scien. Bus.</i>)	Eight.
WED.	Literary Fund	Three.
	Society of Arts	Seven.
THUR.	Royal Society of Literature	Four.
FRI.	Botanical Society	Eight.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—The performance of 'Judas Maccabeus' on Tuesday evening, Handel's third oratorio, 'ranking 'Israel' first, and 'The Messiah' second-best,—affording our first opportunity for the season of remarking, that neither as regards attraction nor aspiration, has the Sacred Harmonic Society retrograded. Exeter Hall, indeed, was crammed with an audience; and, if the choruses could not altogether satisfy the fastidiousness of advanced experience, their execution was very meritorious. And what choruses to execute!—what a noble contrast between the sighs of Judah in its desolation—'Mourn, ye afflicted children!'

* The Evening meetings of the Geographical will continue to be held at the rooms of the Horticultural Society, 21, Regent-street.

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While Handel, a than this gual, and can witho rescues the even mod the voice; instance; doring is

and 'For Sion lamentation make'†—and the songs of Judah when roused to its defence—as in 'Disdainful of danger, and 'We hear, we hear,'—or when proudly victorious, as in the magnificent, 'Fall'n is the foe,' and 'See the conquering hero comes.' Then, again, for music of *mezzo carattere*, there is no opera of Mozart's which contains an air more exquisite in its melodious elegance than 'Wise men flattering'—no chorus, by the least severe of modern mass-composers, moving more gracefully than 'Tune your harps.' It is impossible to hear these performed in succession, though for the hundredth time, and not to be astonished by the variety, as well as by the majesty of Handel. The solos, as a whole, were very well performed. Miss Birch sung her best: we have never heard 'From mighty kings' executed with greater certainty and fluency. Miss Lucombe, too, as second *soprano*, is, by many degrees, a better singer than the second *soprano* of other days. The male songs were taken by Messrs. Bennett, Turner, A. Novello, and Phillips. The last was more out of voice than we ever heard him.

COVENT GARDEN.—'Love' is the title and theme of Sheridan Knowles's new play, produced here on Monday, with a success likely to be increased by judicious curtailment. The drama is interesting, if not exciting; and though it has but little action, the development of character and passion, and the simplicity of the dialogue, rivet attention from first to last. Mr. Knowles is not famed for felicity in the construction of a plot, though he can produce scenes eminently dramatic, and effective stage situations. In this instance, the machinery is as common as it is rude and primitive, consisting merely of disguises and mystification. The interest is centered in the loves of the young *Countess Eppenstein*, and her tutor and secretary, *Huon*, a serf; and the struggle of the woman's pride with her love constitutes the main action of the drama. There is an under-plot, of which *Catherine*, her attendant, an arch and lively girl, and her dull and spiritless lover, *Sir Rupert*, are the hero and heroine, their mutual loves exhibiting other phases of the tender passion. The character of the *Countess*, and the position of the Serf, are thus depicted:—

Frederick. As many streams will go
To make one river up, one passion oft
Predominant, all others will absorb.
Ulrick. What passion, sworn in her, drinks up the rest?
Fred. Pride.
Ulrick. Of her beauty, or her rank, or what?
Fred. Pride of herself! intolerant of all
Equality—nor that its bounds alone—
Oppressive to the thing that is beneath her.
Say that she waves me off when I advance,
She spurns the serf that bows to her at distance.
Sulter and secretary fare alike.
I woo for scorn, he for no better service—
Nay, rather worse comes off.
Ulrick. Her secretary?
Fred. The only one of all his wretched class
Her presence brooks; for he is useful to her,
Reads with a music, as a lute did talk:
Writes, as a graver did the letters trace:
Translates dark languages—for learning which
She hath a strange conceit: is wise in rare
Philosophy: hath mastery besides
Of all sweet instruments that men essay—
The hautboy, viol, lute.

The character and feelings of *Huon* towards his mistress, and her treatment of him, are shown in the first scene between them:—

The Countess—Huon reading to her.
Countess. Give o'er! I hate the poet's argument!
Th' falsehood—Th' offence. A noble maid
Stoop to a peasant!—Ancestry, sire, dam,
Kindred and all, of perfect blood, despised
For love!
Huon. The peasant, tho' of humble stock,
High nature did ennoble—
Countess. What was that?
Mean you to justify it? But, go on.
Huon. Not to offend.
Countess. Offend!—No fear of that,
I hope, 'twixt thee and me! I pray you, sir,
To recollect yourself, and be at ease,
And as I bid you, do. Go on.

While insisting upon the wonderful freshness of Handel, a more striking instance could not be adduced than this very chorus, in which the music is original, and most happy in its contrivance—witness the motion without disturbance of the bass instruments, which rescues the lament from languor and monotony—but it is even modern. Spohr, that most chromatic of writers for the voice, is hardly more chromatic than Handel in this instance: but how exquisitely simple, and clear, and unobtrusive is the latter! This short chorus is, in itself, a study.

Huon. Descent,
You'll grant, is not alone nobility,
Will you not? Never yet was line so long.
But it beginning had: and that was found
In rarity of nature, giving one
Advantage over many; aptitude
For arms, for counsel, so superlative
As baffled all competitors, and made
The many glad to follow him as guide
Or safeguard; and with title to endow him,
For his high honour or to gain some end
Supposed propitious to the general weal.
On those who should descend from him entail'd.
Not in descent alone, then, lies degree,
Which from descent to nature may be traced,
Its proper fount! And that, which Nature did,
You'll grant she may be like to do again;
And in a very peasant, yea, a slave,
Enlodge the worth that roots the noble tree.
I trust I seem not bold, to argue so.

Countess. Sir, when to me it matters what you seem
Make question not. If you have more to say,
Proceed—yet mark you how the poet mocks
Himself your advocacy: in the sequel
His hero is a hind in managuerade!
He proves to be a lord.

Huon. The poet sinn'd!
Against himself, in that! He should have known
A better trick, who had at hand his own
Excellent nature to admonish him,
Than the low cunning of the common craft.
A hind, his hero, won the lady's love:
He had worth enough for that! Her heart was his.
Wedlock joins nothing, if it joins not hearts.
Marriage was never meant for coats of arms.
Literary flourishes on metal, silk,
Or wood. Examine as you will the blood,
No painting on't is there!—as red, as warm,
The peasant's as the noble's!

Countess. Dost thou know
Thou speak'st to me?

Huon. 'Tis therefore so I speak.

Countess. And know'st thy duty to me!

Huon. Yes.

Countess. And see'st

My station, and thine own?

Huon. I see my own.

Countess. Not mine?

Huon. I cannot, for the fair

Overtopping height before.

Countess. What height?

Huon. Thyself!

That towerest above thy station!—Pardon me!

O, wouldst thou set thy rank before thyself?

Wouldst thou be honour'd for thyself, or that?

Rank that excels its wearer, doth degrade.

Riches impoverish, that divide respect.

O, to be cherish'd for oneself alone!

To owe the love that cleaves to us to nought

Which fortune's summer—winter—gives or takes!

To know that while we wear the heart and mind.

Feature and form, high Heaven endow'd us with,

Let the storm pelt us, or fair weather warm,

We shall be loved! Kings, from their thrones cast down,

Have bless'd their fate, that they were valued for

Themselves and not their stations, when some kneel,

That hardly bow'd to them in plenitude,

Has kiss'd the dust before them, stripp'd of all.

Countess. It is confirm'd—the place he holds beside her
Her every action speaks. Of all her court,
He is the only one, whose duties to her
She takes as favours, not as things of course.
He comes! Who stops him thus untimely? Oh,
How changed he is!—The fiery hardihood
Of the life he hath of late made consort of,
Hath given another spirit to his eyes.
His face is cast anew, as circumstance
Could alter Nature's modelling and work.
Improving on her mould. Is that the man
Was once my father's serf, and I did scorn?
Fell ever at my wayward frown that brow?
Or stoop'd that knee, for me, to kiss the ground?
Would they do it now? Fell ever at my feet
That form, as prostrate as the hand of death
Had struck it to the floor? 'T would take that hand
To lay it now there—and a wave of mine
Had done it once! If he confesses hold
Of any other, never shall he learn
His hold of me! But, if he strives in love,
I bless my stars I have the 'vantage ground.

[*Huon enters, and remains standing at a distance, with his eyes on the ground.*]

Countess. Is *Huon* here, and does not *Huon* speak? [*Pause.*]

Absent so long, no greeting for a friend—

A woman, too! [*Pause*—no salutation kind,

Prelude of happy news she'd joy to hear,—

Relation of adventures she would thrill

To listen to,—exploits she would wonder at

And the next moment at her wonder blush,

Knowing whose arm achieved them!

Huon. I am glad

To find you well.

Countess. You are glad to find me well?

I hope you are! It were not saying much,

I trust, to say I know you are! You are glad

To find me well! Is that your news for me?

If 'tis, it is strange news.

Huon. You wish'd to see me,

And I am here to learn your will.

Countess. More news!

You are a friend worth parting with, you bring

Such marvels home with you. Sometime methinks

Since last we met together, and you are glad

To find me well; and, as I wish'd to see you,

You are here to learn my will! You were not here

Had not I sent for you.

Huon. It would have been

Presumptuous.

Countess. Presumptuous!

Huon. Yes, madam,

In the serf.

Countess. [with sudden indignation]. No, sir, not in the

favourite

Of the Empress!—*Huon*, this is not the way

We ought to meet! It should not be in anger.

You are come home, and you are welcome home,

Requires my tongue a backer to get credence?

Well! there's my hand beside. Do you not take

My hand?

Huon. You are a noble lady, madam,

Whose father was my lord, by leave of whom

I thought and had a will—did what I did—

Yea, kept the very blood within my veins.

Behoves it I should take his daughter's hand?

Countess. You mock me.

Huon. Would I did, and 'twere a dream!

But dreams are not repeated day by day,

And day by day reminds me of a time

I was your father's serf.

Countess. No more of this.

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